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# THE TIMES

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45p

## Major and Cheney clash over Bosnia 'deadline'

■ The Security Council must now resolve Western differences on the deadline for enforcing the "no fly" zone in Bosnia. Britain and the US have agreed on the need for such a move

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND MARTIN FLETCHER

JOHN Major and President Bush announced yesterday that Britain and America would work together on a United Nations resolution enforcing the "no-fly zone" in Bosnia.

However, Western policy on enforcing the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia was thrown into confusion after Mr Major and Dick Cheney, the United States defence secretary, contradicted each other about setting Serbia a 15-day deadline to cease all flights.

After a weekend summit at Camp David, the prime minister told reporters on the White House lawn that he had had no discussions about a 15-day deadline. With President Bush standing beside him, Mr Major said: "I saw those stories in the press about a 15-day deadline. Certainly that was nothing we discussed this morning, nothing we discussed over the weekend." Those reports had "no credibility at the moment".

Almost simultaneously Mr Cheney, who was at Camp David on Saturday, was giving a television interview to a conflicting version of the talks. He said: "What was being looked at would be a 15-day period of time, a final warning if you will, to the Bosnian Serbs that they have to stop flying those aircraft and must, in fact, comply with the resolution, and after that period of time action will be taken to enforce the 'no-fly zone'."

The contradiction in the positions of the two main Nato partners reflected their profoundly different approaches to cutting Serbian aggression. It burst into the open despite efforts by Mr Major, Mr Bush and British officials to suggest they had settled their differences over the terms for enforcement of the "no-fly zone". The leaders warned Serbia that it risked isolation for years to come.

Mr Major said that the safety of British troops guarding United Nations relief missions was of paramount importance. His insistence that the 15-day deadline had not even been raised stemmed from his fear that such an overly hostile move would enrage the Serbs and provoke bloody retaliation against the 2,700 British soldiers in Bosnia. The Serbs have already

threatened British troops publicly. British officials would not even use the word "deadline", preferring the less provocative "pause". Although President Bush went out of his way yesterday to acknowledge those anxieties and pay tribute to the peacekeepers, the administration, spurred on by Bill Clinton, the incoming president who wants to "turn up the heat" on the Serbs, is determined to get tough. The Americans fear that if the Serbs are allowed to go on violating the air-exclusion zone with impunity, they will be emboldened to spread the war to Kosovo and Macedonia, triggering war throughout the Balkans.

Despite their conflicting views on the mechanics of enforcing "the no-fly zone", the prime minister and the president did agree on the need for a resolution. The main options, Mr Cheney indicated, were constant air patrols over Bosnia or destroying that had violated the zone.

A resolution setting Serbia a deadline — the timing of which is still in dispute — for ceasing flights over Bosnia is to be rushed through the security council in a few days, perhaps even before Christmas. Lawrence Eagleburger, the Secretary of State, predicted a vote within "a week or so at the longest". The resolution will carry an implicit threat of military action by the West to stop the Bosnian Serbs transporting troops and equipment by helicopter and light aircraft.

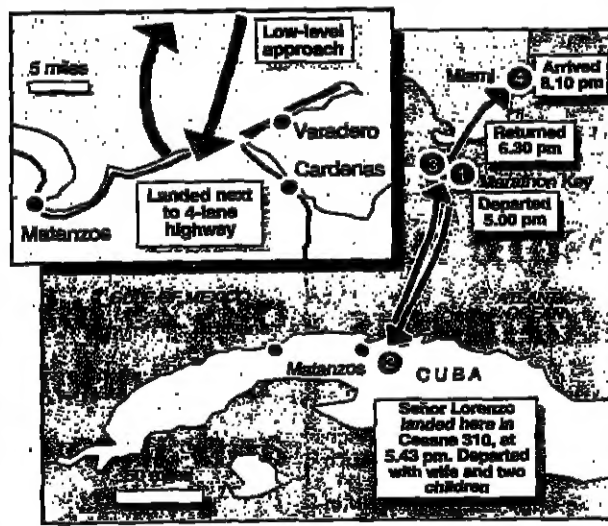
Mr Major's anxiety about the lightly armed 2,700 British troops in the vanguard of the UN humanitarian operation in the war-ravaged former Yugoslav republic prompted President Bush to offer public reassurance about America's intentions, including the pledge that British lives were as important to him as American ones.

Air ban, page 7  
Peter Riddell, page 12

## CUBAN EXILE RETURNS ON A FLYING VISIT



Together again: Orestes Lorenzo Peres arrives back at an airport near Miami with his wife and two children



## Pilot outwits Havana to pick up his family

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A FORMER Cuban air force major who defected to the United States in a stolen MIG-23 fighter plane last year, flew back to the island at the weekend, landed on a busy road and rescued his wife and two sons.

The Cuban authorities had refused the pleas of Orestes Lorenzo Peres for his family to be allowed to join him. On Saturday, flying a borrowed

Cessna, Señor Lorenzo evaded Cuba's air defences by flying low over the Straits of Florida. He brought the plane down on the two-lane road running between Havana and the Varadero peninsula. "I landed in front of a car and they all had to stop," he said. His family jumped in and he took off for Florida.

Family call, page 8

## Fate of Balkans held by Yugoslav voters

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

SERBS and Montenegrins went to the polls yesterday in historic elections certain to determine the fate of the Balkans. Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic was facing a tough challenge from Serbian-American businessman Milan Panic for the presidency but straw polls in several areas indicated that support for Mr Milosevic was holding up well.

The international community has made it clear that if Mr Milosevic is re-elected then sanctions on rump Yugoslavia are certain to be tightened. But, rising to the challenge, Mr Milosevic has presented the race as a struggle for Serbian unity and independence as opposed to foreign subordination in the case of victory by Mr Panic and the opposition.

Last night opposition parties were claiming widespread fraud and the leader of one of the largest parties warned that people would take to the streets to protest if they thought the election had been rigged.

Mr Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, has promised voters that only he and the opposition will be able to end

Serbia's international isolation. However no party advocates the total cutting of support for Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia. In the event of an opposition victory disaffection may soon set in.

Eve-of-election polls showed Mr Panic and Mr Milosevic running neck and neck. Hardline nationalists led by Vojislav Seselj were also expected to do well although last night Mr Seselj was reported to be undergoing surgery after suffering a stroke.

Serbs were also voting for a new parliament and for the Yugoslav assembly. All observers were keenly awaiting the results of Montenegrin elections as they are a crucial test of the pro-independence movement there.

Whatever the result of yesterday's elections they will leave Serbia and Montenegro deeply and, many now predict, dangerously polarised. Many voters said yesterday that they feared civil war and many young opposition supporters said that victory by Mr Milosevic would spur them to emigrate.

Corruption claims, page 7

## Sunday opening brings late Christmas cheer for shops

By NICHOLAS WATT

STORES throughout Britain were crammed with shoppers yesterday as businesses flouted Sunday trading laws to make the most of the last weekend before Christmas. Sales increased by as much as 20 per cent on last year.

After the busiest shopping day of the year was spoiled for the West End of London by a bomb threat on Saturday, shoppers returned in their thousands yesterday. Hamleys in Regent Street reported one of its busiest days yesterday after opening 20 minutes early to cope with the queues outside. David Pearson, the retail manager, said: "We have been heaving with people. We suffered on Saturday, but people have been coming back."

The Conran Shop, in Fulham Road, west London, took more money in six hours' trading yesterday than during a normal ten-hour weekday. Geoff Marshall, the manager-director of Conran Shops, said: "We have had to bring in extra staff, extra tills, extra goods and extra everything. We were very busy all day and just coped."

Business was marginally better than last year and

yesterday's shopping was the tail end of the Christmas peak. "Customers have been hugely enthusiastic about our Sunday opening," he said.

Some stores said they hoped the increase in Christmas shopping heralded the first signs of the recession ending. Michael Cole, the director of public affairs at House of Fraser Holdings, owners of Harrods which was not open yesterday, said: "This has been a good Christmas and better than last year. Our turnover has been up by 14 to 15 per cent on last year which was truly horrible. There is money around and people want to buy the feel-good things."

At the Lakeside shopping centre in Thurrock, Essex, more than 50,000 shoppers packed out the new malls yesterday. Heather Davis, the marketing manager, said: "We have done exceptionally well. Business is up 20 per cent on last year. Over Christmas the average adult spends £120 at Lakeside which is double the normal taking."

Brian Rogers, shopping at Lakeside with his wife and two children, said the law should be changed to allow Sunday trading. "This is only one of

two days when busy people can shop. I don't think Sunday shopping will harm family life because we are making a day of it."

Despite the claims of increased sales, shoppers at Lakeside said they were tightening their belts. Peter Doherty, the manager of the centre's House of Fraser store, said shoppers wanted to spend less and buy more valuable goods.

In central London, retailers said they were having to reduce prices to increase sales. Martin Barnett, of the Marble Arch Association, said: "We are taking 30 per cent less money but are selling 40 per cent more goods."

Alastair Barron, of the Keep Sunday Special campaign, said: "We would encourage local councils to consider prosecution on the basis of today." The campaign supports a private member's bill from Ray Powell, a Labour MP, due for its second reading on January 22, which says goods should be sold which facilitate rest and recreation, treatment of emergencies, social gatherings and travel.

Buying romance, page 4

## Defiant Rabin warns Beirut over turning back deportees

FROM BEN LYNNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

AS ISRAEL'S supreme court met to consider an appeal by deported Palestinian Muslim fundamentalists, Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet yesterday dug in against worldwide condemnation of its mass expulsions.

The Israeli strike against the Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement threatened to backfire amid images of the deportees shivering in Lebanese no man's land. The deportees, many of them Palestinian intellectuals and professional people, formed committees at the weekend to rail what is rapidly becoming the Middle East's latest makeshift refugee camp in Marj al-Zahour, the no man's land between Israel and Lebanon.

The court is expected to deliver its verdict today. Last night Mr Rabin warned the Lebanese government not to try to send the Palestinians back, saying this would be a mistake. "We had to cut off Hamas' ability to harm the citizens of the state of Israel and the Palestinians who support the peace process," Yosef Harish, the industry minister, said after the cabinet reaffirmed the expulsion of 415 suspected members of the Hamas movement and the Islamic Jihad organisation. "The fact remains that Hamas has been weakened and that the factions supporting the negotiations have been strengthened."

Mr Rabin signalled that he had few misgivings about the expulsions by telling leaving members of the cabinet he would meet leaders of the hardline Tsomet opposition party today. These contacts may portend a further drift to the right in what started

last June as a left-centre coalition. There were also signs that a near consensus about the expulsions was beginning to erode, as newspapers raised questions about the haste in which the government tried to bus the deportees across the border and the secrecy that surrounded the operation and its impact on Israel's image. "A no man's land with hundreds of Palestinians Israel has expelled means yet another hump we will have to bear on our back," the

Officials from Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organisation — fierce rivals for Palestinian loyalties — are to meet in Tunis this week to discuss co-ordinated anti-Israel action. They are expected to issue a call for a violent response from people in the occupied territories. Page 8

respected Ha'aretz daily wrote.

The court began hearing two petitions aimed at bringing back the deportees, and soldiers lightly wounded two youths yesterday during a clash in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis. The renewed violence came a day after six Palestinians were killed in Khan Yunis refugee camp, adjoining the town, in some of the fiercest clashes since the start of the five-year-old Palestinian uprising. One of the dead was a Amal Abu Tyur, nine. Ben-Haim, Hebron and Ramallah remained sealed off.

PLO-Hamas link, page 8



This Christmas the NSPCC will be helping many frightened, desperate children who are the victims of neglect. £25.00 can begin to protect a child from abuse. If you can send us that sum, using the coupon below we know of plenty of children who, for the first time in their lives would like to say 'Thanks, Santa'.

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Gummer hails increase in North Sea haddock catches but crews warn that the battle goes on

## Britain wins new EC deal for fishermen

FROM MICHAEL HORNSBY IN BRUSSELS

BRITISH fishermen have been granted a big increase in the amount of haddock they will be allowed to take from the North Sea next year. But their catches of some other species will be cut or held at current low volumes and new conservation measures could reduce their fishing further in future years.

In more than 17 hours of negotiations which ended early yesterday, British fisheries ministers were able to persuade Brussels to drop a plan to compel 800 English and Scottish vessels to stay in port for 190 days every year to prevent over-fishing of cod and haddock.

Manuel Marin, the Fisheries Commissioner, accepted that new legislation in Britain, the Sea Fish (Conservation) bill, should achieve the same conservation aim. The bill, which received royal assent last week, empowers the government to attach a condition to fishing licences specifying the number of days a vessel may spend at sea.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister who chaired the meeting, described the outcome as "remarkable". Fishermen were "natural hunters" and getting them to accept restraint was never easy.

"There is no hope for the future of fishing if we do not ensure that we do not over-fish", he said. "When stocks recover people will see why we had to take these measures".

Senior Marin said the Euro-

**An EC deal on haddock has not satisfied many UK trawlermen. They are threatening to take direct action**

pean Commission and member states seemed at last to be "operating on the same wavelength".

In a further move, EC ministers approved an extension of the Common Fisheries Policy for a further ten years. David Curry, junior fisheries minister, said this meant that Britain, as the biggest contributor to the EC's fishing grounds, would continue to be guaranteed "the lion's share" of the available catch. Fishing by other EC vessels within 12 miles of the British coast would remain limited to boats from countries with historic fishing rights there.

Fears that the Spanish fleet, the biggest in the EC and one which has traditionally fished mainly outside Community waters, would soon be able to invade British grounds in large numbers, reducing Britain's catch share, appear to have been dispelled.

"The Spanish have been seen off at least until 2003," Mr Curry said. Spain, which joined the EC in the mid-1980s, was the only country to vote against this part of the deal. Mr Curry said the problem of Spanish boats registering in Britain and using a British flag could be controlled

by tougher licensing rules. British legislation has worried fishermen because it gives the government a free hand to limit fishing to any level at any time. The penalty for breaching a fishing licence condition will be raised to a maximum of £50,000. Skippers will be able to appeal to a tribunal over their allocation of days at sea.

Britain's share of the haddock catch will rise by 82 per cent in the North Sea, from 42,640 to 77,620 tonnes and by 42 per cent, from 9,985 to 14,180 tonnes west of Scotland. This reflects scientific evidence of a recovery in haddock stocks over the past year.

Our share of the cod catch will stay at 43,220 tonnes in the North Sea, the same as this year, but will rise by 4.3 per cent west of Scotland and by 7 per cent in the Irish Sea. The British whiting quota will go up by 16 per cent west of Scotland but fall by 15 per cent in the Irish Sea.

The EC ministers failed to produce any answers to long-standing criticisms of the Common Fisheries Policy. These include the high proportion of fish that have to be thrown back dead into the sea because quotas have been exhausted or because the fish are below the minimum landing size, and the large tonnage of fish — about half the entire North Sea catch — that is taken for processing into industrial oils and animal feed, mainly by Danish vessels. Conservationists say this is seriously depleting the supply of food for fish that are caught for eating.



Gone fishing: vessels will be able to catch more haddock under the agreement

## Fishermen to step up fight over EC rules

BY RAY CLANCY

SCOTTISH fishermen warned yesterday that they will step up their militant action over fishing restrictions despite claims by the government that a good deal had been reached in Brussels over European quotas.

In Peterhead this week almost 400 trawlers are tied up, unable to fish while their French and Spanish counterparts trawl the seas for cod and haddock. The boats remain in harbour because strict British quotas for white fish have been reached.

"For the past two years the government has forced us to break the rules, to become criminals. While we welcome an increase in the haddock quota, and the limit on tie-ups is a move in the right direction, we have won only a battle, not the war. What concerns us is the Sea Fish (Conservation) Bill, that could put our livelihood in jeopardy," said Peter Bruce, skipper of the *Budding Rose*.

The bill, which gained royal assent last week, enables the government to ban fishing in order to conserve stocks, and is regarded by fishermen as being a bigger threat and more restrictive than the EC rules.

George Foreman has been fishing for 50 years and said he had never known so much animosity. "Many lads feel they are being treated badly. We are heading for the end of an era, to the end of the industry as we know it today. There is quite simply no future in it for young men. A youngster today has no hope of

finding the money to buy a boat, if he inherits a business he is hauled down by rules and regulations and then has to watch as the Spanish and French go sailing merrily by. Yet the government calls it a common fisheries policy," he said.

Along with his sons John and Michael, he owns two boats bought three years ago for almost £1 million each. He is not sure if 1993 will be an economically viable year. "We have to do our sums, work out if it is worth putting to sea," said Mr Foreman.

At a meeting of skippers in Peterhead yesterday, new action was discussed.

Skippers emerged from the meeting determined to take further action. They said that the deal in Brussels was an indication that ministers were paying attention to their views and the marches and demonstrations had resulted in their plight being listened to. "The battle is not over, it has only just started. We shall continue to fight so that no boats have to tie up next year. The fishermen are not going to lie down just because there has been some good news from Brussels," said Mr Bruce.

Already they have blocked the harbour at Lochinver, marched through the streets of Edinburgh during the summer and waved defiant banners at the royal yacht Britannia as she came into the port of Leith. Further action being discussed includes not filling in log books, avoiding fishery vessels and playing cat and mouse games with officials.

## Heseltine may back down on bomb cover

BY RICHARD FORD AND DEREK HARRIS

TAXPAYERS will help meet the costs of insuring commercial property against terrorist attacks under a deal being considered by the trade and industry department.

A solution to the crisis caused by the Association of British Insurers saying that terrorist damage would be excluded from new commercial policies is expected in the next few days.

Ministers have come under pressure from the City and business leaders to share the spiralling financial burden of IRA attacks on commercial targets in mainland Britain.

The association and leading figures in the City expect ministers to unveil a government-backed scheme before Christmas because many existing insurance policies expire on January 1. Bernard Harty, financial director of the Corpo-

ration of the City of London, said last night: "It is important that something is announced in the next few days."

Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, has held a series of meetings with insurance companies in an attempt to resolve the row. Although the government has been adamant that the insurance companies must bear the brunt of the risk, Mr Heseltine has not ruled out some government assistance.

One scheme under consideration in Whitehall is a levy of 5-10 per cent on industrial property insurance that would be pooled to provide cover for terrorist damage, with any extra cost underwritten by the government. If the special fund ran out, the government would step in to meet additional claims from the public purse.

## Major forges links with Clinton after bidding Bush farewell at Camp David

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICHOLAS WOOD IN WASHINGTON

JOHN Major flew back to London last night having said goodbye to his old friend and ally President Bush and successfully forged links to the incoming Clinton administration.

He followed up a 30-minute telephone call to Bill Clinton on Friday with a lunch at the British embassy yesterday for Al Gore, the vice president-elect, Les Aspin, who is this week expected to be appointed defence secretary, and others likely to play key roles over the next four years.

The prime minister's efforts appeared designed to dispel any lingering friction generated by Conservative party help for President Bush during the election campaign, including the recent disclosure that the Home Office had searched its files for information on Mr Clinton.

Returning from a weekend with Mr Major at Camp David, Mr Bush told reporters at the White House: "I feel as strongly as I ever have about the strength of the UK-US relationship. It is vital to our own interests and I know the



Gore had lunch with the prime minister

prime minister feels that way." He praised Mr Major, saying it had been "a very wonderful visit with a distinguished world leader" and that "the talks could not have gone better".

Lawrence Eagleburger, Mr Bush's Secretary of State, also attended yesterday's lunch, alongside Mr Clinton's senior advisers. During his "easy and friendly" conversation with Mr Clinton, Mr Major discussed the war in the former Yugoslavia and the state of the world economy. He was comforted to hear the president-elect shared his concerns about the impact on British troops carrying out humanitarian work in Bosnia of enforcing the no-fly zone.

Also at yesterday's lunch were Dave McCurdy, the House intelligence committee chairman and close adviser to

Mr Clinton on national security issues, and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, who continues in his post despite the change of president.

Mr Aspin will preside of the post-Cold War retrenchment of the American military and will have a large influence on a number of issues affecting Britain, including the level of US troops to be left in Europe, the future ability of Britain to test its nuclear weapons in the US, and whether Britain's independent nuclear deterrent should be included in any future strategic arms reduction talks.

Mr Greenspan would have been able to brief the Prime Minister on America's future economic prospects, which bear directly on Britain's hopes of pulling out of the recession in the new year.

## Police fear court disclosure rule will rob them of key informants

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHIEF constables have warned the Home Office that prosecutions against key criminals could be abandoned if detectives have to name confidential sources of information to meet growing legal demands for disclosure of material.

Many big investigations into drug trafficking, armed robberies, terrorism and underworld gangs depend on information from criminals or those close to the underworld. Police fear that defences will try to extract the identities of informants, putting informants at risk.

A letter drawn up by the

Association of Chief Police Officers setting out widespread police fears about the demands by defences for total disclosure of material is being studied within the Home Office. The letter also warns the Home Office that the bureaucracy and work involved in drawing material together could be costly in terms of funding and manpower.

In one recent London multi-million-pound drug trafficking case Scotland Yard disclosed for the first time that detectives had bugged the offices of a suspect. The police have always maintained total silence on their technical cap-

abilities for fear that the underworld would try to avoid such surveillance.

Several other cases in London and the provinces have been abandoned in the past year because judges ordered the disclosure of the identity of informants or police officers working under cover. Police fear that recent cases of miscarriages of justice involving the non-disclosure of material will make the courts even more anxious to meet defence demands.

The concern has now spread beyond the police to MI5, where officers are reported to be worried that their new role in intelligence work on terrorism could mean they will face court appearances. The Security Service might also be forced to reveal its methods and informants.

The cost of disclosure is already causing headaches for some forces, especially in One Met-side investigation has had to make a million pages of material available to defence lawyers.

The letter from the chief constables follows a national police conference last month, where detectives from every force listed their difficulties with disclosure and the Crown Prosecution Service. As a result new guidelines are to be sent out before the new year by the CPS.

The CPS has agreed that prosecution lawyers will not automatically hand over material to the defence without consulting the police. If there are claims that material is too sensitive to be disclosed and the CPS, the police and the defence disagree, the matter will be put before a judge.

## Sotheby's cuts 25 jobs in London and abroad

BY JOHN SHAW

ABOUT 25 staff at Sotheby's, the world's biggest auction house, are to be made redundant between now and the middle of January.

The move affects employees in London and on the Continent and follows 60 redundancies announced by Christie's International. Art market speculation has suggested for some time that up to 150 staff would go at Sotheby's in the light of a sluggish art market but the figure was firmly discounted yesterday.

A spokeswoman said: "We are making a small number of redundancies as part of a carefully organised process of seeing how and where we can do things better. We are not making any formal announcement; it is part of a process of adjustment in the European operation."

A life-sized bronze sculpture of Joan of Arc valued at £100,000 has been stolen from the gardens of Cliveden House, the former home of Lord and Lady Astor at Taplow, Buckinghamshire. The mansion is run by the National Trust.

The sculpture dates from 1850 and weighs a quarter of a ton. It is the latest in a series of garden statuary thefts feeding a profitable market here and on the Continent. Earlier this month a carved stone angel weighing about a hundredweight was stolen from the grounds of a private chapel near York and a 3ft high pair of stone eagles disappeared from a garden in Cumbria.

## 200 flee blaze at Edinburgh hotel

One of Edinburgh's biggest hotels was badly damaged by fire yesterday. The Scandic Crown was evacuated of almost 200 guests as firemen fought to prevent the blaze spreading from the upper part of the seven-storey building. A large part of the roof was wrecked and the upper two floors were severely burnt.

A policeman spotted the fire at 5.15am. It is thought to have started in a boiler room. Although there were early fears that one man was missing, police later said all had been safely accounted for. All the guests were taken to another hotel. The Scandic Crown, which housed the Danish delegation to this month's European Community summit, is in the Royal Mile. It was built two years ago to a design created to blend in with historic buildings in the street.

## Male cancer risk grows

More British men are getting testicular cancer, a disease which can prove fatal. Since 1972 the risk has nearly doubled, the Imperial Cancer Research fund claims. Its scientists are investigating a link between a rise in the number of men with undescended testes and cancer. The charity has launched a fact sheet which explains methods of self-examination. About 1,000 cases occur each year with 150 proving fatal. New drugs have greatly improved survival rates.

## Tree breaks plane's fall

The crew of a microlight was rescued from a 75ft Scots pine which cushioned its fall near York yesterday when its engine failed after take-off. John Watkins, 53, from Manchester, was trapped in the cockpit with serious leg injuries for an hour until firemen cut him free. His co-pilot, Steve Grzybowski, 43, of Tadcaster, escaped serious injury.

## No 10 'losing its allure'

The government's recent problems have tempered the ambitions of at least one cabinet member. Michael Portillo, right, the Treasury chief secretary and often mentioned as a successor to John Major, told LWT: "I think over the last six months, the difficulties that our prime minister has been through have made me realise what a terribly demanding and, in many ways, unrewarding job it is."



## Soldiers die in crash

Two women soldiers were killed on the M4 as they drove from Germany to visit their families for a Christmas surprise. Debbie Hunter, 26, and Cindy Kibble, 27, were in the front seats of the car, which went out of control in sleet near Bray, Berkshire, on Saturday night. A fellow soldier, Mark Hayden, 26, suffered severe chest and leg injuries.

## Bronze Age recreated

A replica Bronze Age settlement is to be built on a remote moorland farm, overlooking the remains of original 3,500-year-old dwellings. Work on recreating the ancient homes at Treworth Farm, 1,000 feet up on Bodmin Moor, Cornwall, will start in the new year. The 200-acre beef and sheep farm up to 1,000 schoolchildren a year. Farmer Graham Lawrence, 44, hopes that youngsters will be involved in later stages of the development.

## Lockerbie petition

On the fourth anniversary of the Lockerbie air crash today, six people who lost relatives will hand a petition to John Major at 10 Downing Street demanding a public enquiry. In New York, a march and vigil will be followed by a memorial service to the 270 people who died when a terrorist bomb brought down the PanAm aircraft.



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# Minister views ways to claw back cash in big mortgage rescues

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is considering changing the rules that allow benefit offices to meet big mortgage payments for the unemployed after it emerged that the state is paying £1,800 a week to cover the housing costs of a businessman.

Social security ministers are looking at proposals whereby those who receive big weekly payments to cover mortgages would have to pay back the money once they had sold their homes.

It was disclosed this weekend that the social security department is paying the £1,800 a week mortgage for Trevor Deaves, who lost his £400,000-a-year job as chairman of the M1 insurance group two years ago.

Yesterday, Alistair Burt, social security minister, refused to comment on the Deaves case, but said that he would be examining ways to ensure that the taxpayer did not lose out where high payments were made.

While no detailed proposal is on the table, Mr Burt, favoured some type of repayment for those on higher-than-average mortgages. However he pointed out that many houses that could not be sold were repossessed. In this case, there would be no equity and it might be unfair to chase the debt. "It is fraught with difficulty," he said. "If the house is repossessed do you then demand the debt or write it off?"

The Labour MP Frank Field, chairman of the Commons social security committee,

has been pressing for a repayment policy for over two years. Yesterday, he said that the ministry should be guided by the average payments given to those who could no longer afford their mortgages. Anyone receiving more than this sum should have to return all or a proportion of the sum they received, after selling their house.

Mr Field said: "At a time of recession, nobody wants to see people who are unemployed and homeless. But the taxpayer should be able to recoup a large part of the payments once the house is sold. Taxpayers are supporting huge capital assets and they should get some recompense."

Mr Burt said that there are already rules on mortgage payments. They are not given to those with savings above £8,000 and a sliding scale is imposed on those with savings of £3,000 to £8,000.

People with very big mortgages receive full interest only if the social security adjudication officer decides that they could afford the mortgage when they took it on. "Nobody is going to foot the payment if I buy Highgrove and then lose my job the next day," Mr Burt said.

Full interest is met for up to a year if the claimant is making efforts to sell the property. After this period, benefits would be lowered to a level comparable to a reasonable standard of accommodation. If the claimant was unable to sell his house, it would be repossessed.

"If the mortgage payment is

inappropriate, as would certainly be the case if someone was paying over £1,500 a week, then there must be a let out for the taxpayer," Mr Burt said.

If people's accommodation is thought appropriate for their circumstances, mortgage payments would go on indefinitely.

Trevor Deaves is not alone in having help from the social security department in paying the mortgage. There are several other cases where formerly rich businessmen have had help with repayments.

Peter Julien, an unemployed interior designer, bought his home in Hampstead, north London, in 1989 and made two payments on the £630,000 mortgage before his business failed. He asked for state help to meet repayments of £1,784 a week and was given social security benefits totalling £32,000 over six months. The home was repossessed and sold by the Town and Country Building Society.

The DSS paid the £600-a-week mortgage interest on a businessman's four-bedroomed home at Darwen, Lancashire, when his finance and mobile communications firm faced difficulties.

A money market trader and broker remortgaged his maisonette in Islington, north London, a week after losing his job in 1989. Interest payments on the £138,750 loan, which came to almost £420 a week in 1990, were paid by the social security department.



Reflections of Christmas cheer: Jonathan Rees, a tuba player, taking part in the annual Tuba and Euphonium carol concert in London yesterday. The concert moved to a new venue at Spitalfields in the East End this year after 12 years at Covent Garden. About 40 brass players volunteered their services for the concert

## Heads to boycott tests at age of 11

By JOHN O'LEARY

THE government's beleaguered testing programme for the national curriculum faces another boycott threat today, this time from head teachers of 11-year-olds.

Next year's first full round of tests at the age of 14 are already the subject of possible disruption by members of the National Union of Teachers. Now the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) is advising its members not to take part in pilot tests for the younger age group.

The association, which represents most heads in the primary schools where assessment at 11 will take place, claims that the government has refused to enter into dialogue on vital aspects of the curriculum. It regards the new tests as unreliable and unnecessarily time-consuming.

Both the heads and the Labour party are asking John Patten, the education secretary, to adopt the Scottish system of allowing teachers to decide when pupils are ready to be tested. Pilot tests for 11-year-olds are planned for 2 per cent of schools in England which cover the age group.

Testing at 11 will be compulsory from 1994, but participation in the pilots is voluntary. Baroness Blatch, the education minister, said: "The NAHT advice is pure hypocrisy. They tell us they want the tests to be thoroughly tried out in schools, but they tell their members not to co-operate with trials."

"One of the main reasons for running pilot tests is to enable teachers to influence the development of tests so that they are as manageable and effective as possible."

David Hart, general secretary of the NAHT, said: "The profession needs to demonstrate that its concerns must no longer be ignored. A flawed system of assessment should not be imposed on children or divert valuable resources away from teaching."

## Masked rapist attacks newspaper girl aged 14

By HAMISH PATERSON

A GIRL aged 14 was beaten and raped by a masked man who seized her in an alleyway as she delivered newspapers near her home in a co. Durham village.

The girl had just delivered her last newspapers in the village when the man grabbed her from behind, dragged her into a garden and savagely beat her.

She was in hospital last night with severe bruising. Police said she was so traumatised by her ordeal that she could remember very little about the attack, which happened in daylight.

Police have set up an incident room in the village, between Durham and Consett. The rapist, who covered his face with a ski mask, attacked the girl shortly after 8am on Saturday.

Detective Chief Inspector John Graham said yesterday: "It's terrible that this girl should have her life ruined in this way and it's imperative we should catch this man very quickly."

The girl was halfway down an alley when she heard footsteps behind her. She thought it was a jogger and moved to one side but was instantly attacked. She managed to pick herself up and stagger to a nearby house for help.

Both of her eyes were closed, her lip was cut and swollen and her nose was bruised. Police were at first unable to establish that she had been raped.

Mr Graham said it was not clear whether she had been knocked unconscious or whether she could not remember what happened because of shock. A specially trained policewoman is at the girl's bedside in hospital to try to find out more details of the attack. All that the victim could remember was that the masked man was taller than her 5ft 5in.

Police have appealed for anyone in the area between 7.30am and 8.30am on Saturday to come forward. They particularly want to hear from the driver of a blue van, bigger than a Transit, and from a young boy in a black and green striped track suit. Both were seen in the area.

Police believe that the rapist is probably a local man because he seemed to know a number of alleyways in the area, including the one in which he attacked the girl, just yards from her home.

## Libel case couple ask EC for aid

TWO people being sued by the fast-food chain McDonald's are making their plea for legal aid to the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Helen Steel and David Morris, from London, whose case is before the High Court, are accused of libelling McDonald's in a leaflet. They claim that they cannot properly defend themselves without legal aid, which is denied by the government in libel cases.

They say the denial breaches the right to a fair trial in the European Convention on Human Rights. Their application to the commission, which rules whether the case can go to the European Court at Strasbourg, also says inability to defend themselves against a world-wide corporation makes freedom of expression impossible.



Finance house: Trevor Deaves outside his home, costing the state £1,800 a week

## Executive's naked body found on waste land

By A STAFF REPORTER

DETECTIVES are trying to piece together the final hours of a London businessman found naked and stabbed to death on waste ground after what they describe as a "savage attack".

Peter Wickens, 32, the director of a retail games company, was last seen alive on Thursday night at an awards dinner for the industry at the Portman Hotel, in the West End.

The following afternoon, his body, naked except for his socks, was found on land close to a bus depot in Shepherd's Bush, west London. He had been stabbed in the chest four or five times.

Police believe that Mr Wickens was murdered elsewhere and his body dumped. Det Supt Brian Edwards, who is leading the murder enquiry, said yesterday: "It was a savage attack. We can find absolutely no motive whatsoever, although it is very, very early days."

Mr Wickens, a single man, lived alone in King's Road, Chelsea. He was the company director of Game Ltd. Det Supt Edwards said Mr Wickens had met friends before leaving for the awards dinner. "It was a formal dinner and he left late in the evening wearing dinner dress."

A police spokesman said: "It is believed he was killed in the early hours of the morning and his body taken to near the depot. Police are anxious to know what happened to the victim's clothing."

A colleague at Game Ltd said: "Everybody is very deeply shocked by what has happened."

## DSS offered to pay £2,000 weekly benefit

By ADAM FRESCO

SURROUNDED by the 66 acres of Surrey countryside that he can still call his own, Trevor Deaves was yesterday unemployed that the social security department is meeting weekly interest payments of almost £2,000 to keep him there.

Mr Deaves, 39, now at the centre of growing political furor over social security benefits, said: "I have paid a lot of tax in the past and am simply claiming what I am entitled to."

Since losing his reputed £400,000-a-year job as an insurance sales executive, the department has been meeting his mortgage interest repayments of £1,833 a week since July.

The former millionaire took out a £832,500 interest-only mortgage to buy the six-bedroomed Tree Top Farm in Haslemere, Surrey, set in 66 acres, for £925,000 nearly three years ago. He signed on

for income support in July this year after leaving his £400,000 job as chief executive of the life insurance company M1 Group in January 1991.

He made his fortune selling insurance policies and was once reputedly worth £15 million and owned more than 20 cars, including Rolls-Royces and Ferraris, but has sold them all. He says two Range Rovers, parked at the top of the sweeping gravel drive, belong to his wife, Jacqui.

He said that the DSS phoned him asking why he did not claim supplementary benefit. "It turned out I was entitled to have my mortgage paid because I had been paying it myself for 30 months. When I made the mortgage claim I offered to pay it all back but they said I was entitled to it. I would still pay it all back if things work out for me, or give it away to charity."

## Cold war foes swap secrets

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MEASURE of how far the Cold war has thawed can be seen from the latest deal being struck between the West and Russia. Information from the new radar station at RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire, which only replaced the famous "golf balls" last month, is to be traded for data on Russian rockets, the threat the station was built to counter.

It is all part of the new version of President Reagan's Star Wars project, a £30 billion joint Russian-US space defence plan called GPALS, Global Protection Against Limited Strikes, which is intended to counter threats

from the growing number of nuclear powers.

With the two sides no longer enemies, they are prepared to swap information in areas where they have a lead. The Soviets' rocket booster systems are regarded as far superior to those in the West, while the new £160 million Solid State Phased Array Radar on the Yorkshire moors is acknowledged as the state of the art in detecting objects in flight, even beyond the atmosphere.

Much of the Russians' missile detection capability was lost when the Soviet empire broke up and Fylingdales will help to plug a gap against new threats.

There is some irony that when the Americans, who paid 80 per cent of the cost of the new radar, first proposed updating the early warning site it was vehemently opposed by the same Russian generals who will now benefit from its data.

Fylingdales was built in the sixties facing east to give the famous "four-minute warning" of an incoming Soviet missile attack. The new system, housed in a three-sided pyramid, can scan 360 degrees. "The benefits for Russia are obvious," a Ministry of Defence spokesman said. "It would be a simple matter to link them into our system."

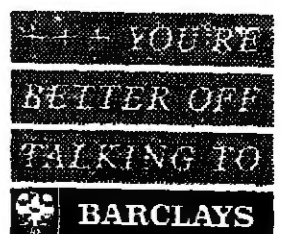
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# Army rebuilds IRA target despite safety fears



Mates: soldiers will not be sitting ducks

By EDWARD GORMAN  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE army in Northern Ireland has spent around £7 million rebuilding and relocating a much-bombed checkpoint close to the Irish border. Its critics say that the soldiers posted to it will be placed in unnecessary danger and that it should have been abandoned.

Cloghogue, pronounced Clog and known to the Army as Romeo 16, is a state-of-the-art installation with an automated vehicle screening area. The checkpoint, and the adjoining base located just south of Newry, co. Down, near the border, are bristling with surveillance equipment. Its construction involved "re-designing" a hillside using earth-moving equipment to accommodate the base and make it more secure from IRA attack.

It is the most expensive base of its kind in Northern Ireland, and even the army is prepared to admit that it is now one of the IRA's key targets, and will almost certainly be bombed again.

Last week, Seamus Mallon, the SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, and Michael Mates, the Stormont security minister, were again at loggerheads over the base. The nationalist view is that Cloghogue should be scrapped. Mr Mallon and his supporters believe the base is a military nonsense that invites IRA attack while at the same time posing a deadly threat to those who live near it and serve in it.

The official unionist view is that the army and police must have a permanent presence close to the border on the main Dublin to Belfast road for a variety of political, military, economic and psycho-

logical reasons. The debate has been given added spice by the suspicion among nationalists that many army officers secretly share their view.

Driving through the base, just three miles north of the border and a mile south of Newry, last week, Mr Mallon put that argument in its most emotive terms. "I must say if I was the father of a son who was posted here and had to man this checkpoint simply to let it be seen that things were being done and he was killed, I would be very angry indeed."

Mr Mallon believes a far better strategy would be for the army to mount random mobile patrols and checkpoints on the road, depriving the IRA of a permanent target.

The army and police first installed a checkpoint at Cloghogue in 1986 after a series of IRA

bombings and ambushes on the road immediately south of it, in an area known locally as "murder mile". Unionists would have preferred the checkpoint to have been right on the border itself, but the country there is too open and so Cloghogue, at a bend just below a hilltop overlooking Newry, was chosen instead. Its appearance at such an important location was an immediate provocation to the IRA.

There have been a number of attacks on the base since then, two of which virtually demolished it. In October 1990 a soldier died and two were injured when the IRA forced a local man to drive a bomb into the checkpoint. It was rebuilt only to be destroyed again on May 1 this year, when the provisionals transported a huge bomb on a freight wagon down the Belfast to Dublin railway, which runs along-

side the base. They detonated it without warning, killing Fusilier Andrew Grundy, aged 22, from Ferryhill, co. Durham.

There have been other less dramatic attacks with mortars, the most recent on August 6, while the base was being rebuilt for the third time. Each attack has been followed by a renewed attempt by the local community to persuade the Northern Ireland Office not to rebuild.

This year's rebuild is the most concerted of all, converting Cloghogue from a mere checkpoint to a full-scale patrol base. Officially the army say it is now happy with the new design, which allows troops to operate the checkpoint away from the road, alleviates traffic congestion because of a construction of a separate slip road, and helps to reduce the destructive

potential of another bomb.

A spokesman said their soldiers are now as safe as they can be in a vulnerable location. Mr Mallon is not convinced. He points out that there has never been a single arms find of any significance at Cloghogue while all around it so-called unapproved roads remain free for the use of the IRA.

Mr Mates denies that troops and police posted at the base are sitting ducks. He dismisses claims that Cloghogue is more about symbolism than military strategy. "I certainly wouldn't have spent the money we spent on it as a symbol. Had anybody said we need a symbol there I would have argued very, very strongly against it. It's there because both the police and the military reckon it's operationally necessary to be there."

## Airline acts after campaign by families

### Britons who died in Nepal air crash to be named with DNA test

By TONY DAWE

GENETIC fingerprinting will be used to try to identify victims of the Pakistani airliner crash in Nepal three months ago, in which 35 Britons died.

Only 64 of the 167 who were killed when the Airbus A300 crashed into a hillside on the approach to Kathmandu airport have been identified, including 19 Britons.

The decision by Pakistan International Airlines and their insurers to carry out the tests follows a campaign by British relatives. Several had written to the Foreign Office and to their M.P.s protesting at the airline's reluctance.

Neen Lowdell, whose husband Darcy died in the crash, said: "I would welcome anything that will help get Darcy's body back home, but I cannot understand why it has taken so long to make this decision.

The weeks and weeks of waiting for any news only makes you more angry and upset."

Mrs Lowdell, of Worthing, West Sussex, spent yesterday discussing arrangements for two of her three children to provide blood and hair samples for the DNA test. The parents of Mick Hardwick and Dave Harries, two mountaineers who died, have arranged to give samples today.

"We hope that Dave's body will be identified and we can have a funeral," Muriel Harries, of Worcester, said yesterday. "We were upset when the airline at first refused to do the tests and are saddened that it has taken so much effort to get this decision."

It will be the first time that DNA testing has been used extensively on British air crash victims. The DNA testing is

available because scientists working for Kenyon Emergency Services, a London-based international undertakers, took small samples of tissue while carrying out post-mortem examinations in Kathmandu.

The samples were deep frozen and brought recently to the Home Office's forensic science laboratories at Wetherby, West Yorkshire. The DNA tests will reveal any similarities between the samples and those about to be taken from blood relatives.

"We have genuine hopes that the tests will identify more people," Philip Lewis, chief executive of Kenyon's Emergency Services, said. "We obtained samples from 110 bodies, and 72 per cent of those samples contain very good DNA."

He added that the airline had always been aware of the availability of tests but had preferred to see how many of the victims could be identified by normal pathology and dental record checks. "When it became clear that we were not going to come up with any more identifications, PIA and its insurers sanctioned the DNA tests," Mr Lewis said.

In a letter to relatives, Mr Lewis said: "The process makes a comparison between the DNA profile obtained from the accident victims and that of ideally two relatives of each passenger. Should any profiles match, a relationship is considered proven."

The decision comes on the eve of the funeral of five victims who were identified: Andy and Helen Wilkins, missionaries from Hertfordshire, and their three children Hannah, 10, Naomi, 8, and Simon, 6.



Missionaries killed in the crash: the Wilkins family



Flight of fancy: the centrepiece of Lakeside shopping centre at Grays, Essex, looms above Sunday customers

## £10,185 buys romance at Christmas

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE 12 days of Christmas this year will set a true love back £10,185. The sum is back in five figures despite *The Times*'s best endeavours to keep down the cost in view of the recession.

*The Times* has calculated the cost of presenting all the gifts in the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* each year since 1973, when the price was only £2,818.60.

This year, we decided to cut out wasteful duplication and to use the services of an independent financial consultant, Richard Bateman, of Bateman Financial Planning, in Cornwall, who has done similar calculations for the past six years.

Mr Bateman suggested that he could fill the bill for no more than £6,246 this year, down from our £9,397.70 last year.

The bulk of Mr Bateman's savings came from his suggestion that dancers dancing pipers piping, drummers drumming and lords a-leaping could be persuaded to perform for nothing if doing it for charity or if a video were to be made of the event. He also thought it silly to pay milkmaids union rates when unemployment in farming is so bad that they would fill the role at £5 an hour.

Some of Mr Bateman's items were, however, dearer. His butcher wanted £9 for a partridge, which we got at Harrods last year for £5. His pear trees were cheap, though, at £10 against our £18.95.

Mr Bateman's turtle doves were fancy pigeons (£35 a pair), and his French hens were frozen, from a supermarket, at £5 each. For calling birds, he suggested

budgerigars at £8.50. Cows were £700 each and gold rings £25 each. Geese were £28 each from the local butcher, and swans could be hired at £30 apiece.

Yet when we did our calculations with the price list he had suggested, our total came, not to £6,246, but to £10,185. The £3,939 difference arose because he had not costed in the repetition of gifts — partridge and pear tree, for example, are given not once, but on each of the 12 days.

The moral of this exercise is that if you employ a financial adviser you should always have an in-depth interview, take nothing at its face value, and ensure that you are both talking about the same thing. Otherwise it could prove very expensive, even at Christmas.

## Long break is justified, say employers

By A STAFF REPORTER

EMPLOYERS have defended their decision to shut factories for up to two weeks over the Christmas period following criticism by Tory MPs. A survey by the Institute of Directors, to be published today, shows that 64 per cent of manufacturing industry is taking nearly two weeks off.

Managers insist it is often uneconomic to reopen after Christmas only to switch off again for the new year. Some companies have been forced into longer shutdowns because of thin order books but successful firms such as Toyota in Derbyshire and Nissan at Sunderland are closing from Christmas eve until January 4 and 7.

Both the institute and the Confederation of British Industry dismiss criticism of the long break, which has been attacked by Sir Teddy Taylor, the Tory MP for Southend East. He said that either the entire period should be recognised as an official holiday or the bank holiday on January 1 should be abolished.

"Until we are prepared to go one way or the other we are just going to experience the annual embarrassment, loss of production, loss of wealth and, clearly, loss of employment."

Mr Bruce, the Tory MP for Dorset South, said: "When you try to buy goods or services you find you have to wait a long time, which would seem to be ridiculous if everybody was as lacking in orders as one would imagine."

The institute's survey found that 56 per cent of all firms will be open between December 29 and 31. More than 40 per cent of the manufacturing companies which are stopping production will have sales staff available to take orders.

Both the institute and the CBI pointed out that Britons take fewer holidays than most of their European competitors. Much of France shuts down for two weeks in August and the average Frenchman gets 30 days paid leave by law, plus 11 public holidays. In the UK, where there is no legal minimum of holidays, the average

person gets 25 to 29 days plus eight public holidays.

At least 250,000 Britons are leaving the country this Christmas to spend their holiday abroad (Robin Young writes).

The Canary Islands are the most popular destination, according to Britain's largest travel agent, Lunn Poly, and the credit card company Access. They have identified Florida, southern Spain, Kenya and Gambia as the other most popular escape routes at Christmas.

Many London and country house hotels which have arranged Christmas programmes report that they still have vacancies.

## A machine replaces Britain's loneliest worker

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

THE loneliest lighthouse keeper in Britain, who has single-handedly run the Bishop Rock lighthouse off the Scilly Isles for 13 years, will return to dry land today to be replaced by a machine.

Peter Robson, whose pillar-shaped home is 23 miles from the mainland and Britain's remotest one-man posting, has been forced to leave as part of a cost-cutting programme to fully automate Britain's 38 manned lighthouses by 1997.

The Corporation of Trinity House and the Northern Lighthouse Board, which manage the 278 lighthouses in Britain, were forced by the shipping industry to replace keepers with machines, which do the same job for half the cost.

So far, no lighthouse keeper has had to be made redundant. Mr Robson will be transferred to the Needles lighthouse, off the Isle of Wight, in February. But the lighthouse authorities say that some redundancies will be inevitable as the programme nears completion.

Frank Bremner, who runs the most remote lighthouse in the British Isles but has the companionship of two assistants, is at Muckle Flugga on Unst in the Shetland Islands. He expects to be made redundant in March 1995. "There are very few lighthouses we can go to, so I will have to look for another job," he said. "At first when they announced the automation programme we kept hoping that they would change their minds, but now we know it's just a matter of time."

Mr Bremner, 51, has been a lighthouse keeper for 29 years. He spends one month on the island, where he shares a cottage with two other keepers, and one month off, when he is taken by helicopter to the nearby island of Lerwick where his wife and sons live. His main task is to maintain the light and keep equipment in order. Lookout duty, which is often thought to be a lighthouse keeper's job, is the role of the coastguard.

He will spend Christmas on Unst. "We'll have a roast dinner, but one of the other chaps will do it. I don't have to cook, because I am the head lighthouse keeper."

The automation programme puts an end to five centuries of maritime tradition. Trinity House, which runs the 82 lighthouses in England and Wales, was given its charter by Henry VIII in 1514 and erected its first lighthouse at Lowestoft in 1609. But the savings from automation are substantial. A manned offshore lighthouse costs around £100,000 a year to run. Automated equipment, which began to be installed in the 1970s, costs £500,000 and will last for 15 years, saving the lighthouse authorities £1 million over that period.



Bishop Rock: the remotest single post

## Illicit lovers bolder at hotels

LOVERS are being "completely blatant" about their affairs, according to a new survey. Most hoteliers report that fewer couples register under pseudonyms. But, for the diminishing number of secretive romantics, the name Smith is used in three out of four occasions.

The hoteliers report that the name Major has become more common, with 6 per cent of illicit partners using it. Of 300 British hoteliers in the Signpost Hotel Guide surveyed, two-thirds said romantic liaisons were on the increase. Nearly half the 700 readers questioned said they had spent at least seven weekends at British hotels in the past year.

Isolated country hotels remain the favourite for amorous couples, with four out of five choosing a rural retreat. The Lake District the most popular destination, with a bracing weekend by the sea favoured by 16 per cent.

The most obvious cue to whether a couple is having an affair is if one does not know whether the other has tea or coffee at breakfast. Eight per cent arrive in separate cars, and one in 10 has no luggage.

## A third of doomed pits may be saved

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the president of the board of trade, is expected to reprieve about a third of the 31 pits which were scheduled for closure in October. He is believed to be considering saving two of the mines which were earmarked for definite closure: Markham Main, South Yorkshire, and Bewes in South Wales.

Ministerial sources said that Mr Heseltine is due to report on the government's enquiry into the pit closure programme by mid-February. However, he is awaiting two important reports from management consultants to assess the extent of the future coal market.

While the Commons trade and industry committee believes that contracts for at least an extra 15 million tonnes can be found, saving up to 14 pits, trade and industry ministers are more cautious. They expect that the figure is nearer 10 million tonnes, which would save about ten pits.

Members of the Tory-dominated trade and industry committee, which is conducting its own enquiry into the 31 pit closures, believe that an extra 7 million tonnes of coal can be added to the British market if the power supply line from France is switched off. Committee members are also arguing for a switch from the present subsidy for nuclear power to a coal subsidy to make it more competitively

priced. Although neither option has been ruled out, ministers argue that both are fraught with legal and technical difficulties. The second option will also be expensive.

Trade and industry committee clerks are drawing up the committee's report to be presented before January 29, when the official consultation period on the ten pits is over. Although the cross-party committee will back the reprieve of a substantial number of pits, there is division over how this should be done. Tory members of the committee want some of the ten pits privatised but this is not accepted by Labour MPs, who are also arguing for a larger number of pits to be saved.

Mr Heseltine is expected to defend his second U-turn by arguing that the goal posts moved once it became clear that the coal market could be expanded. Some MPs claim that the political necessity of saving some of the pits may be overriding the logistical and economic case for closing them.

John Major has been told by senior members of the cabinet that the government cannot afford a repeat of the outcry in October when the scale of the pit closures became clear.

The price of reprieving even a third of the pits open will be huge. Keeping all 31 pits open would cost £600m to £700m a year.

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## Rail umbrella body will be run by business recruits

By MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

MANAGERS will be brought in from the private sector to run Railtrack, the new rail infrastructure authority, once legislation to break up and sell off the railways receives royal assent, senior transport sources have confirmed.

The business leaders will be responsible for sharpening railway management skills and ensuring that the maximum number of private sector companies seeking to provide passenger and freight services are able to do so, the source said.

Despite the recent groundswell of criticism over the government's rail privatisation proposals, ministers are adamant that its plans will result in a more efficient railway. Ministers are aware, however, that the sell-off is something of a gamble, and will have to be handled with care.

Allegations that the privatisation blueprint is excessively bureaucratic have been ac-

knowledgeed. Ministers insist that this is the price of ensuring that the new regime is fair and effective.

The new infrastructure includes Railtrack, which will allocate train paths and user charges; a franchising authority; and a regulator to oversee the new system. This is considerably more complicated than the existing BR structure.

No decision has been made on what to do with InterCity, the national passenger network. It is understood that ministers are leaning towards breaking up the national passenger network, despite the campaign by rail managers to keep it intact.

Once the rail privatisation bill has been submitted to Parliament in the new year, five BR lines will be selected for a trial run, one of which is likely to be the antiquated London, Tilbury and Southend line. BR will soon be asked to prepare separate management and accounting

systems for the five lines, the source said.

One of the benefits of rail privatisation will be the ability to identify precisely what BR's annual subsidy, now running at almost £1 billion, is spent on.

At present, no one really knows what subsidies are needed to support which lines. Consequently, under the new regime public debates about whether lines should be shut down will be better informed.

Ministers do not expect another round of line and station closures on the scale of those that took place during the era of the Beeching cuts. Some closures, particularly in rural areas, are likely to be unavoidable.

The railways needed annual investment of between £1.2 and £1.4 billion. "It is not getting that investment and that is why it is not performing the way it should," Sir Bob Reid, the chairman of British Rail, said yesterday.



Love lost for labour: the statue of Eros is removed from Piccadilly Circus in London for repairs. It usually receives the attentions of new year revellers

## Barrister selection scheme attacked

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS by the Bar to restrict the number of student barristers have been condemned by Sir Bryan Carsberg, the Director General of Fair Trading, as "significantly anti-competitive" and amounting to a quota system.

New arrangements which the Bar Council wants to introduce in September 1994 would end the profession's traditional open door policy and introduce a rigorous selection system which would weed out up to 400 students.

In a letter to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Sir Bryan says: "I believe the proposed quota system significantly restricts, distorts and prevents competition."

The proposals, he says, would give the Bar "unlimited discretion not only over the appropriate academic standards for applicants to the vocational course but also over how many barristers they wish to train."

The Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 requires any new training proposals for the profession to be approved by Lord Mackay after receiving advice from Sir Bryan, who has recommended that the

rules should not be approved unless they are subject to a time limit and quotas are increased.

The Bar's training course is already being investigated by the Commission for Racial Equality over claims that the examinations favour candidates who are not from ethnic minorities.

Anthony Thornton QC, chairman of the Bar's professional standards committee, said that the Bar faced difficulties which Sir Bryan recognised.

"At a time of diminishing demand for legal services, we are being engulfed by a tidal wave of applications," he said. Each year there was a rise of 10 to 15 per cent in the number of law graduates wanting to become barristers and a further rise in non-law graduates.

"The maximum number the school can take is about 1,000 and by 1993-4 it is estimated there will be 3,000 applicants," he said. The Bar had proposed that its new entry scheme would be a solution for three years. In the meantime it had set up a review of education and training.

## BR chairman warns against sell-off

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE government's plans to privatise the railways would result in private companies putting profit before safety and reliability, Sir Bob Reid, the chairman of British Rail, warned yesterday.

The government intends to go ahead next year with a bill to divide BR in two: one organisation to own the track and operate the signals; the other to operate the train companies. Sir Bob argued in favour of building on what BR had achieved rather than restructuring it.

"If you start to break it up and you disrupt it, you will break the momentum; you will give yourself major safety validation problems... and you will not get a better service for some long time to come," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*.

It was "too strong" to say the new system would never work, he said, but added that it would be a different service to what Britons were used to: "People will want to do things in different ways. They will want to run trains at different times. They will want to act competitively. They may want to run a bus service at the end of the train service so they may not be too interested in timetabling together."

"I think a commercial operator will find a whole variety of ways to improve their commercial position and that will not be consonant with running a social service railway."

He said BR's main job was to supply travellers with a safe and reliable service. "I am not driven to make profit. My priorities within the public sector are totally different from

my priorities within the private sector."

He also warned of a poorer service next year because of a "severe" financial squeeze. "If you don't have the money to do your track replacements, you must slow the train down. So we are going to have difficulties. These are going to work their way through into the performance of the railway and that will need to be explained very carefully to the customers so as they understand what is happening."

Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, later called on the government "to listen to the advice of people who know something about running a railway, and abandon their unworkable plans for privatisation".

He added: "I fear that, for fulfilling his duty to express honest doubts and concerns, Sir Bob will become the object of concerted Tory abuse. They would do better to listen to the immensely important points which he has raised, and act accordingly."



Reid: profit drive may hurt safety

## Ministers protect their minder teams

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

OBJECTIONS by senior politicians are delaying plans by Scotland Yard to merge VIP, royalty and diplomatic protection squads into a single special protection department.

Cabinet ministers are said to have complained that the changes would end the continuity and rapport that now exists between protection officers and the people they are looking after, making life even more difficult and restrained.

Armed protection is provided for about 50 people including John Major and other cabinet members, former prime ministers such as Margaret Thatcher and some former ministers and Opposition politicians.

Key diplomatic figures such as the Israeli ambassador are protected by the Special Branch, which also guards Salman Rushdie, the novelist facing a death threat from Moslem fundamentalists. Senior Yard officers have been working with the Home Office to find a solution to the opposition to the plans, which have also been delayed by internal problems and divisions over the wisdom of the change. After 15 months no final decision has yet been taken on implementation.

The plans follow an examination by the Yard last year of the current protection system. Special Branch, with 523

officers, provides more than 100 armed men from a unit known as the A squad. The royal and diplomatic protection group has 847 officers and guards the royal family, royal residences and embassies. Last year it also took over responsibility for the Palace of Westminster.

Having just one protection unit would offer cost and manpower savings and end the Special Branch role. Officers would spend only a few years in the unit instead of remaining on protection duties for large parts of their career.

But one officer with protection experience said: "Put yourself in the position of the people who are being protected. Someone is going to live in your pocket most waking hours and won't be far away when you are asleep. Protection can be very wearing and obtrusive. A rapport builds up. If someone wants to change the system, some of the VIPs are questioning the need for it."

Margaret Thatcher, for example, is still guarded by a team which accompanied her when she was prime minister. Several of the officers volunteered to move back from other duties to join her.

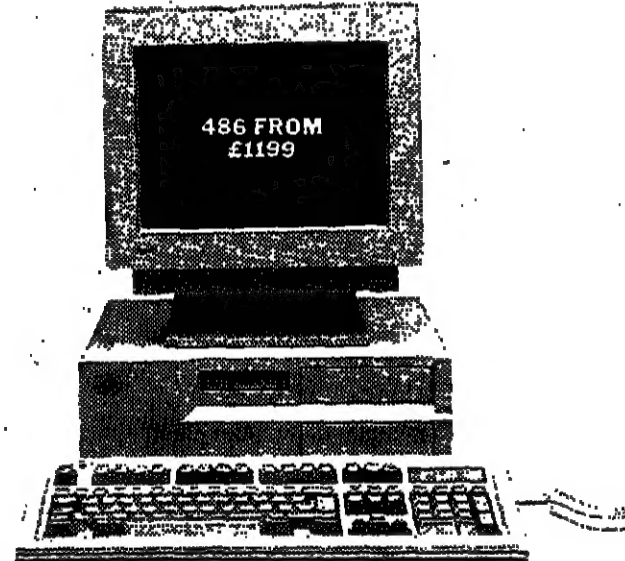
The plans are also questioned within the Yard, where the Special Branch would eventually lose a sizable part of its responsibilities.

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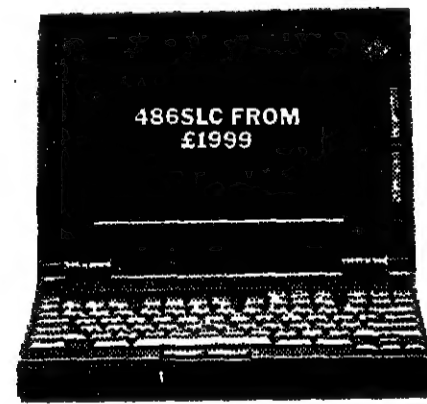
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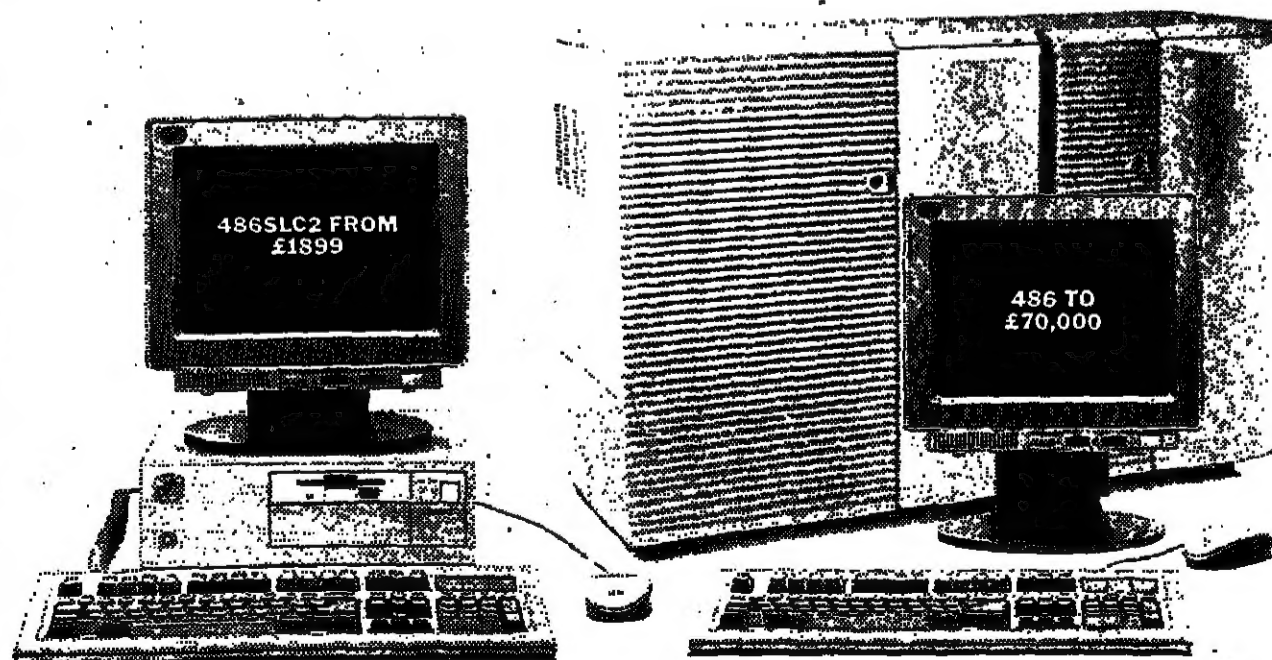
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## X-rays reveal Jeni's secrets 3,000 years on

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE secrets of an Egyptian mummy have been revealed in detail for the first time in Britain without having to remove it from its protective cask. A team from St Thomas's Hospital, London, used the latest X-ray scanning techniques to get precise pictures of the mummy's body and skull that previously could be obtained only by unwrapping — and thereby destroying — it.

The 3,000-year-old mummy of the priestess Tjennutemgebtii, known as Jeni for short, is from the British Museum collection. Dr Jeffrey Spencer, of the museum, said: "Very few [mummies] are in good enough condition to last very long if they are unwrapped. Once, private collectors of mummies would have 'unrolling parties' when they would unwind the bandages surrounding the bodies, but nobody would dream of doing that today." The

examination at St Thomas's was carried out by a team led by Stephen Hughes of the medical physics department. Jeni was chosen because she dates from the twenty-first dynasty (1085-945 BC), when the art of embalming reached its peak in Egypt. She was encased in a decorated coffin made of a mixture of linen and plaster and fitted easily into the computerised tomography scanner at the hospital.

The scans, made in five sessions, were stored on magnetic tape and converted into three-dimensional images by a set of computer programmes developed at St Thomas's. Their usual purpose is to help to find the precise position of brain tumours.

One of the most interesting findings was the excellent condition of Jeni's teeth. Coarse grit from the millstones used to grind corn meant that teeth had a short



Old meets new: the 3,000-year-old cask of Egypt's priestess Tjennutemgebtii enters St Thomas's computerised tomography scanner

life in ancient Egypt, frequently being worn right down to the gums. The images, which show teeth in good condition and wisdom teeth that have only just erupted, mean that Jeni must have been between 19 and 23 when she died. Previously the museum had put her age between 25 and 40.

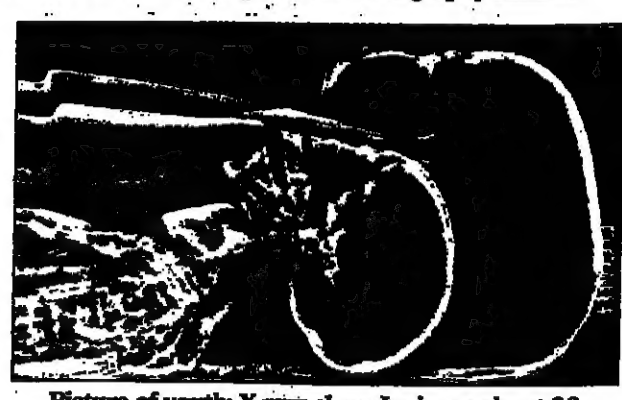
The images also confirm that the brain had been removed and replaced with a piece of linen stuffed into the skull through the nose. The Egyptians themselves left no

documentary accounts of mummification, so scholars have had to depend on an account written much later by the Greek historian Herodotus. Dr Spencer said the study of Jeni shows that Herodotus was accurate.

The images also show a series of amulets, including a hawk lying on Jeni's chest and a scarab over her feet. Her eyes had been replaced by artificial eyes, probably made of obsidian. A plate covers the hole in the left flank of the abdomen through

which the liver, stomach, lungs and intestines were removed. "The images show that Jeni was in a very good state of preservation," Mr Hughes said. "We have been able to find out a lot of new things about her that would have been impossible without this technique."

The British Museum and St Thomas's may examine further mummies from the collection, perhaps choosing several from different periods to study the change in embalming techniques.



Picture of youth: X-rays show Jeni was about 20

## Soldiers killed in jungle

Four British soldiers died and 11 were slightly hurt when their lorry overturned on a jungle road in Belize, Central America.

The men were travelling from a camp near the border with Guatemala to Rideau, the headquarters of the Royal Highland Fusiliers, the resident infantry battalion in the former British colony.

The dead men were named as Fusilier Tony McAnally, from Port Glasgow, Strathclyde, Trooper Shaun Mulroe from West Yorkshire, Trooper John McConnel, and Fusilier B. M. Luker from the Isle of Arran.

## Human torch

A man who poured petrol over himself in his lounge at Normanton, Derbyshire, and set fire to himself was critically ill in the burns unit in Nottingham City Hospital. Friends tried to save him when he ran flaming into the street.

## Gas tap alert

A pensioner who forgot to turn off the gas when he went out caused an alert in Southampton. Police diverted traffic while firemen and gas company staff wearing breathing apparatus hunted the suspected leak. They had to break into the house.

## Bus reprieve

For the third time, Volvo has postponed closure of its bus plant at Workington, Cumbria, which employs 150 people. The delay, until July, followed an order from Strathclyde for 52 buses.

## Likely title

Wiltshire Community Foundation has given £500 to the inmates of Erisstoke Prison, near Devizes, to help them stage the Christmas musical *True As I'm Stood 'Ere It Wasn't Me Your Honour*.

## Bond winners

Winners in the weekly Premium Bond draw are: £100,000 — 13FB 098175; winner lives in Exeter; value of holding £2,055. £50,000 — 33TS 121961; Lancashire; £9,650. £25,000 — 14FB 484870; Stockport; £5,020.

## Money for tidal power dries up

By NICK NUTTALL

THE Mersey tidal barrage project, intended to generate non-polluting electricity and provide jobs in one of Britain's hardest hit cities, appears to be heading for closure.

Requests for £14 million for the final development phase are being ignored by the trade and industry department.

James McCormack, secretary of the Mersey Barrage Company, the consortium behind the scheme, said yesterday: "The funds were for preparing the project for Parliament, but officials and ministers seem to be against it."

The scheme has cost government and private industry £8 million. New figures indicate the complete project would cost £900 million, £60 million less than previous estimates, and could save 750,000 tonnes of coal annually and provide 5,000 jobs.

## Labour urged to back selective welfare benefits

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith, the Labour leader, was challenged yesterday to abandon traditional Labour thinking on welfare policies and his own support for universal benefits.

Frank Field, chairman of the Commons social security select committee, urged Mr Smith to promote a new agenda of "work, wealth and opportunity".

Mr Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, said an increasing proportion of the electorate saw Labour as a backward-looking party, intent on holding them down. "Make the changes now or they will have to be made after a fifth election defeat. The need is to take welfare out of the ghetto

and place it firmly as part of the debate on Britain's economic and industrial future," he said.

At the launch of the Commission on Social Justice last Thursday, Mr Smith underlined his cautious approach to policy changes by reiterating Labour's commitment to universal benefits such as child benefit and pensions.

Mr Field said yesterday that there should be no sacred cows, and universal benefits should be thrown into the review being carried out by the social justice commission.

He urged Mr Smith to reconsider whether all pensioners should have their benefit uprated in line with prices, or whether the money should be targeted to the poorest groups.

In a background paper for the Fabian Society's new year conference on the future of the welfare state, Mr Field calls for a rethink of two centuries of welfare tradition. "The task facing Labour now is nothing less than designing policies that lock an ever-increasing proportion of the population into an income from work and welfare."

Mr Field points out that the richest 10 per cent of pensioners have an income more than six times higher than the poorest. "Should future increases go to rich and poor pensioners alike? Or should the whole of the increase for each year's uprating go to the poorest pensioners alone?" he asked.

Pension provision accounted for nearly a third of social security benefits, it had a substantial private sector provision, and acted as a bridge with industrial policy through the assets held by private sector schemes, Mr Field said.

Pension reform should aim to give pensioners control over their own pension capital, said Mr Field. He called for a move towards money purchase schemes, which are more flexible and rely less on employer contributions.

## The way it isn't



A. L. Rowse  
Is a bit of a grudge.  
Though he certainly didn't grumble.  
When Trevor-Roper took a tumble.

Prince  
Hints  
It may be odd  
But he's God.

Tony Slattery  
Must run on a battery.  
Viewers beware!  
Slattery can get you everywhere.

Tina Brown  
Is the Talk of the Town  
She is quite exceptionally well-read

In stories involving debauched millionaire aristos with dark financial empires and social-climbing wives (preferably dead).

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are all  
Taste it, know it.

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IS A TIME YOU  
CALL YOUR OWN



## Serbia votes for president as US and Britain issue 'no-fly' zone ultimatum

## Opposition in Belgrade alleges poll corruption

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SERBIAN opposition parties cried fraud yesterday soon after polling stations opened in elections regarded as the most important Balkan poll since the end of communism. Telephones rang continuously in opposition party headquarters as people called in from across Serbia to complain of irregularities. "If this trend continues, the election will have to be annulled," Svetlana Knezeva, of the Democratic party election

their sympathisers, who had boycotted other recent polls, had been struck off the new rolls.

Eye-of-election polls indicated that Mr Panic and Mr Milosevic were running neck and neck, but a straw poll at voting stations around Belgrade indicated that support for Mr Milosevic was holding up well. Support for Mr Panic was solid only in a village inhabited by ethnic Slovaks.

In Belgrade's industrial suburb of Rakovica the faded words "Viva Yugoslavia" could still be seen painted on the wall of the building where the poll was being held. A fresh, double-size "Serbia" had been painted on the next wall. "Milosevic is one of the greatest Serbs in history," one voter said. Support for Mr Milosevic was by no means solid, however, with a sizeable proportion voting for parties that regard him as far too soft on the national question.

An accountant, 30, said that she was voting for an extreme nationalist party because "Serbs must have their state wherever they have their houses, their churches, their children and their faith". In Pancevo, in Serbia's ethnically mixed northern province of Vojvodina, support for Mr Panic was stronger, but far from overwhelming. "Panic would make this place another Panama," one voter said.

Bush-Major accord, page 1  
Leading article, page 13

## EC poised to tighten Serbian blockade

BY GEORGE BROCK

EC FOREIGN ministers will today discuss appointing a "sanctions supremo" to supervise the tightening of the economic blockade around Serbia. If Slobodan Milosevic wins re-election as its president, while economic sanctions directed at Belgrade have been overshadowed by the debate over possible military action against Serbia, most EC governments believe tougher measures should be

taken if Mr Milosevic beats his more moderate challenger, Milan Panic.

One suggestion being discussed at the moment is the joint appointment, with the United Nations, of a senior international civil servant or politician who can co-ordinate the work of plugging the loopholes in the present embargo. "It's all a bit diffuse at the moment," a British official said yesterday. "There's no central point of authority and the UN doesn't have very good methods of making it work. It's all very ad hoc."



Power play: Milan Panic arriving to cast his vote in Belgrade. Support for his rival, President Milosevic, was said to be holding up well

## Air ban aims to paralyse strategic centre

BY ROGER BOYES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT, AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE ultimatum given to the Serbs yesterday by America and Britain is more than a face-saving device: it could have a decisive effect on the war in Bosnia.

The main point of enforcing the "no-fly" zone is to warn, escort to base, or even shoot down war planes criss-crossing the air space over Bosnia. Most Western military analysts agree that this alone will not have much impact since few Serbian operations are backed by aircraft.

However, it also poses a direct threat to Banja Luka, site of the Serbian forward air base in Bosnia and a fortified headquarters for Bosnian Serbs. It is a prime resupply centre for fighters throughout the region. If Banja Luka and the narrow corridor that is used to transport supplies from Serbia are disabled, the Serbs will be in danger of losing an important chunk of their captured terrain in northern Bosnia.

Apart from the psychological impact — showing the Serbs that their army is not invincible and the West is not paralysed — a firmly enforced "no-fly" zone could thus play an important military function. British doubts about subscribing to the UN resolution

— giving the Serbs 15 days to stop fighting before policing the skies — have centred on the questionable value of the "no-fly" zone. The notional gains of such a zone seemed slender indeed compared to the risks to the British ground troops. There was some British cynicism, too, about the motives of the noisiest of the interventionist states, America and France.

The Bush administration would perhaps like to be

remembered in terms of heroic leadership — but it is the Clinton administration that will have to pick up the pieces if it all goes terribly wrong. As far as the French government is concerned, there are difficult parliamentary elections in March: a successful war could provide a useful electoral bonus.

Britain, in short, felt exposed, with little to gain and much to lose. The meeting between Mr Major and President Bush at the weekend has shifted the terms of Whitehall calculations. Now, it is admitted, there are military gains from a "no-fly" zone, and the risk to British troops may not

be as menacing as it has been portrayed by the Bosnian Serbs. Nonetheless, the large contingent of British soldiers in Bosnia has made Britain something of a hostage of the Bosnian Serbs. Certainly, Radovan Karadzic and his warnings of revenge are taken far more seriously in London than elsewhere in Europe. Dr Karadzic — celebrated as an epic poet on BBC television last week — feels that Britain is one of the weak links in the

European Community — or has this been quietly dropped? Lord Owen and his fellow UN peace-broker, Cyrus Vance, have put forward a constitutional package for a decentralised Bosnia divided into ten or more virtually autonomous provinces. But the plan does not seem to have gone much beyond the drawing board.

Slowly the stark choice is emerging: to launch a full-scale intervention in Bosnia with the aim of restoring the administrative hub of the republic, ending "ethnic cleansing", closing down camps and declaring the republic a UN protectorate until an equitable political solution is found, or to accept a partition of Bosnia between Serbia and Croatia with a small stretch of land left for the Muslim population. The latter option has always been more attractive to the pragmatists in Whitehall, though it cannot be stated publicly. Yet even the partitioning of Bosnia needs a degree of Western military participation if only to protect Bosnian Muslim enclaves.

With the threat of retaliation by the Serbs on British troops in Bosnia, the defence ministry in London has drawn up a number of options. Reinforce-

ment, with added firepower, seems the most likely if the Serbs begin a deliberate campaign of artillery and mortar attacks. Before the British troops went to Bosnia, ministers had given a warning that they could be withdrawn if they suffered substantial casualties. However, there is a determination among ministers to maintain the humanitarian mission which they believe is succeeding, despite Serbian obstruction, bad weather and appalling convoy routes along mountain tracks.

Despite the reluctance to withdraw the troops, the contingency planning is going ahead so that the government can make a choice in the event of a dramatic increase in Serbian attacks. Withdrawal would probably also involve temporary reinforcement to enable the troops to leave central Bosnia under armed protection. Such an option would be opposed by the soldiers who would regard it as a humiliation.

The third option would be to maintain the 2,400 troops in Bosnia without adding to the British presence, continuing with the relief operation in the hope that the Serbs see sense and keep their aircraft out of the skies.

## Senate sends Fabius for trial

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE French senate voted yesterday by 286-1 to send Laurent Fabius, the Socialist party leader, and two former ministers to trial over the HIV blood affair.

The decision, sought by President Mitterrand as a way of clearing the air, marks the final act in an "autumn of horrors" for French politicians and guarantees a poisonous climate in the campaign for the general election due in March.

In a theatrical appearance before the National Assembly on Saturday, the former prime minister, 46, depicted himself as a noble victim volunteering himself for sacrifice. "Innocent and recognised as such, I come before you to ask you to charge me with errors I did not commit," he said.

Pallid and dressed in a black tie and suit that gave him the air of an undertaker, a trembling M Fabius paused for the television cameras as he cast his ballot into the ceremonial urn used for parliamentary votes.

The rare Sunday senate session endorsed the National Assembly's decision on Saturday to send the one-time "dauphin" of M Mitterrand, along with Georges Dufloix and Edmond Hervé, former health ministers, before



Fabius trembled as he cast his vote

the parliamentary tribunal to answer for their actions in 1985. That year, M Fabius's government allowed blood known to be contaminated with the AIDS virus to be distributed for transfusion.

More than 1,000 people are estimated to have acquired the HIV virus from the transfusions during the three months in question in 1985 and over 200 have died.

## 'More work needed' on Start II

FROM REUTERS IN WASHINGTON

THE United States and Russia have made real progress in negotiations on additional cuts in long-range nuclear weapons but are not yet ready to sign a Start II treaty, President Bush said yesterday.

President Yeltsin surprised officials in Washington last week when he said that a Start II agreement was in hand and would be signed before President Bush handed over to Bill Clinton, the president-elect, on January 20.

"I can tell you it is not agreed totally. We have made some real progress," President Bush said after holding a 35-minute telephone conversation with President Yeltsin. The discussion between the two leaders came during a meeting at the Camp David presidential retreat between President Bush and John Major.

President Bush disclosed the call, which apparently also focused on Bosnia and the political situation in Russia, at a press conference with Mr Major after the two men returned to the White House. He did not elaborate on what progress has been made in the nuclear arms negotiations, but American officials sought to dampen speculation that President Bush and President Yeltsin might meet in Alaska to sign an accord early next month.

## Moscow radicals to stay in cabinet

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin prized agreement yesterday from Viktor Chernomyrdin, his new prime minister, that the core of radical ministers would stay on after rumours that conservatives were planning to pack the cabinet with advocates of slower market reforms.

The new cabinet will be announced tomorrow and Mr Yeltsin has been pressing Mr Chernomyrdin, a moderate conservative, to retain key ministers appointed under Yegor Gaidar, the ousted acting prime minister, as a guarantee that the substance of reforms will not change. With confusion persisting about Mr Chernomyrdin's



Chernomyrdin says market not a panacea

policy intentions, Mr Yeltsin wants to make clear that he will not tolerate attempts to put Russia back on the road to centralism.

After several hours of talks between the president and the prime minister, Mr Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said that the government "maintains its loyalty to the idea of transition to a market

economy and intends to continue the reform course". There was no statement on the meeting from Mr Chernomyrdin's side.

Earlier, Mr Yeltsin had cut short his visit to China and flown back to Moscow after receiving reports of an attempt to dismember his government by packing it with conservatives. Mr Yeltsin's decision to return seems to have been linked to an article in *Izvestia* that quoted Arkadi Volosky, the influential conservative, as saying that there would be major changes in the cabinet.

Mr Kostikov reinforced rumours of a conservative cabal around the industry-led Civic Union seeking to capitalise on Mr Yeltsin's weakness in the aftermath of the Congress of People's Deputies and his absence from the country, complaining that "certain political figures and parties are becoming too active in questions concerning the formation of the government".

Mr Chernomyrdin, while repeating his commitment to reform, has said that he will not tolerate the impoverishment of Russia and that he favours "the market but not the bazaar". Before yesterday's meeting, he again qualified his support for reform, saying: "The market alone is not a panacea. Many countries have been living for a long time with market conditions and still not resolved their social problems."

Mr Yeltsin is clearly anxious to restore his authority, denied by the loss of Mr Gaidar at the hands of the congress last week. He cannot have been reassured to find hostile manoeuvring starting as soon as his back was turned.

## Why Russians heed their master's voice

BY ANNE McELVOY

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's statement on his sudden return from China. "The master must return to restore order," was delivered with the grin of a man well aware that while the cat is away the mice will play.

But his words were also selected for their resonance in a culture traditionally dominated by the master-servant relationship and the notion of individuals — whether tsars or communists — destined to rule.

In its modern context the word Mr Yeltsin chose, *khogain*, means "the boss", derived from its earlier meaning of "master". It is an image which he has long cultivated, nodding towards the idea of that only an authoritarian leader can stop the place falling apart.

Russians live in a state of permanent disorder but this does not stop them fearing it and placing their faith in anyone who can restore calm. *Bezkhovny* (literal translation — "without a master") means a slovenly, chaotic state of affairs in which no one is responsible and which was often used to describe Soviet enterprises.

But the word has echoes of a divine right to rule. *Khogain* originally meant "God" and later "the world" and later still "master", evoking the chain of authority from God to man on which the divine right of the tsars was based. The Romanov dynasty clung to that concept, and the tsar's title was "master of the Russian

lands". *Khogain* conveys the idea of a strong, benevolent ruler.

Titles suggesting authority generally have positive connotations in Russian and rather negative ones in English. Stalin styled himself as a *vozd*, equivalent to *Il Duce* or *Der Führer*. Bulgakov, in his novel *The Master and Margarita* chose the word "master" to reflect spiritual and intellectual predominance rather than the more common Russian words suggesting domination.

The image of the master returning to restore order among unruly officials and peasants often appears in 19th century literature, particularly Turgenev and Tolstoy. In the first epilogue of *War and Peace*, the threat posed to the nobility when Prince Bolkonsky dies is averted by the timely arrival of Nikolai Rostov to maintain the patriarchal order and whom the peasants greet as "a real *khogain*".

Mr Yeltsin, threatened by political rivals, is keen to reinforce the idea that strong leadership is desirable. In Nikolai Nekrasov's poem *The Forgotten Village* the master is absent and his stewards vie for power — conditions not unlike those which break out in Moscow when the leader turns his back. The peasants long for the return of a strong hand. Finally the estate owner returns, but in a coffin: an image Mr Yeltsin will prefer to forget.

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# Rabin expulsions drive PLO into the arms of militants



Rabin: admitted he may have made misjudgment

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
MIDDLE EAST  
CORRESPONDENT

AS ARAB-Jewish violence intensifies, the prospects for a revival of the Middle East peace talks are growing more remote. On the eve of a visit designed to boost the European Community's profile in the troubled region, Willy Claes, the Belgian foreign minister, voiced the widely held opinion that the mass expulsions will weaken the hand of those moderate Palestinians willing to negotiate.

"I hope the peace talks continue but am uncertain how they can be restarted," Mr Claes said in reference to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's declaration that it will never return to the table until the 415 deportees are back home.

"I do not see any possibility at all of continuing with the

## Labour may achieve what had seemed impossible: an Arafat-Hamas reconciliation

peace process," Sari Nusseibeh, a leading academic working with the Palestinian delegation, said yesterday after a meeting of Palestinian activists in support of the deportees in Jerusalem. "We cannot continue with the peace process unless Israel goes back on its decision."

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, countered the avalanche of world criticism and growing doubts among domestic commentators by asserting that the talks would go on despite the Arab protests.

"Even if the Palestinians do not come to the talks, the Arab states will continue the process with us," he told *Yedioth Aharonot*. As criticism in the Israeli press grew, Mr Rabin

acknowledged that he might have misjudged the situation. "The result was less positive than we thought," he said.

Western diplomats believe that Israeli intelligence gravely underrated the willingness of the new Lebanese government of Rafik Hariri to keep out the deportees and thus revive world concern about the Palestinian problem not seen since the intifada began in December, 1987. It has been noted that between three million and five million Palestinians also live as exiles.

By threatening to "storm" back into Israeli-held territory on Wednesday if progress is not made to return them by diplomatic means, the deportees have signalled a grasp of

the publicity potential now open to them. Many journalists pointed out that, without the future over the expulsions, the shooting dead by the Israelis of six Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and one in the West Bank would have rated nothing like the coverage it received. "This has become a public relations disaster," an Arab official said. "That is about the only hope we have that they might reverse the decision but we are not confident."

Far from strengthening the Palestinian moderates, the crisis has helped bridge differences between the PLO, which for 14 months had supported the peace talks, and Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement which has vowed to sabotage them.

Leading representatives of the two groups — whose hatred was so bad it threatened civil war in the occupied

territories — are to meet in Tunis to discuss a co-ordinated response to the expulsions. A call for increased anti-Israeli violence is considered inevitable. A previous attempt at reconciliation failed when the Hamas team did not arrive in Sudan as arranged. Yasser Arafat, 62, the PLO chairman who was scathing about Hamas, has changed his tone since the deportations, now referring to the Iranian-funded extremists as a "patriotic force".

A key factor in increasing international condemnation of Israel has been its inability to control media, particularly television, coverage of the plight of the freezing and destitute Palestinian fundamentalists in their bleak no man's land between Lebanon proper and the Israeli-occupied buffer zone of southern Lebanon. Their encampment threatens to become a permanent symbol of Israeli heavy-handedness in dealing with Arabs. While Mr Rabin's Labour party, which raised such hopes for peace with its election triumph in June, dismissed fears that the expulsions would undermine



the peace talks, Israeli right-wingers, who always opposed negotiations, endorsed Mr Rabin's actions. The hardliners feared that continuing the peace process would force Israeli withdrawal from Arab land.

Some Western officials believe that there is a strong faction inside the Israeli establishment which would prefer Hamas as the main Palestinian representative — it already claims to speak for 40 per cent of the people who are under occupation — because that would lessen the chance of international sympathy forcing Israeli concessions.

The *New York Times* was among those who are demanding rapid action by President-elect Bill Clinton to try to rescue the peace talks. "The Middle East peace process cannot wait until January 20."

Court fight, page 1

## Deported elite defies Israel and winter in tent village exile

FROM ALI JASER IN MARJ AZ-ZAHOUR

BY DAYBREAK yesterday in this hillside of no man's land, the 415 Palestinians expelled from Israel three days ago lined up behind a bearded cleric to take part in morning prayers. Bare-footed, everybody knelt and then stood up humming Koranic verses. They repeated with the shalikh prayers to God to protect their families and mosques.

It was the start of the third day for these men away from their homes. Nevertheless they have managed in a short time to organise their lives under sometimes impossible weather and accommodation conditions. The deportees arrived here at midnight on Thursday after they were dragged from their homes and jail cells in Israeli-occupied Gaza. The Lebanese army prevented them from entering the country and squeezed them into this three-mile-long buffer area, only a stone's throw away from Israeli guns in the security zone.

After the 15-minute ritual, the deportees immediately divided themselves into committees and took charge of cooking, medical care, sports, clearing, information and

education. "They came and said they wanted to move the tents because the engineers among them say it will work better if they are in a different configuration," a relief official at the camp said. "I told them, 'Fine. Do what you want. Just don't drag me into it.' They're incredible. They know what they're doing."

It is the make-up of this fresh group of deportees that explains their *savoir vivre*. They are all prominent educated figures of Gaza, gathering among them 14 doctors, 23 university lecturers, engineers and 120 mosque clerics.

"We have a society that can stand on its own," remarked one of the deportees, Abu-Laila Salhawi, 40, a chemist from Khan Younis.

"We have two cooks from Najah university. We have construction workers who set up the tents and doctors maintaining round-the-clock medical services," he said.

United Nations convoys carrying food supplies, water reservoirs, heaters and ovens shuttled between the camp and the liberated Lebanese areas to the north to provide them with the minimum re-

quirements for survival.

The UN personnel, Lebanese Red Cross rescuers and journalists were the only people that the Lebanese army allowed into the no man's land. Scores of local Lebanese fundamentalists from Hezbollah, and Palestinians living in Lebanon were denied entry into the camp.

"Our main driving force is our faith in God and in Islam," said the deportees' spokesman, Abdul-Aziz Rantisi. He emphasised during a press conference held at the door of his tent that there were no armed men within his group.

"We are a constellation of Palestinian intellectuals. Our struggle is to expose Israel and let the world know about the ordeals of the Palestinian people. We are not fighters and we are not terrorists," he said in perfect English.

According to Mr Rantisi, 108 deportees were prayer leaders or imams at mosques, ten were doctors, 18 engineers, 18 had university doctorates, 25 were lecturers at the Islamic University in Gaza and 250 held bachelor degrees.

He said that the aim behind their deportation was to "empty the occupied territories from Arab brains and intelligence". He called on his Hamas group, the Islamic Resistance Movement, to start a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and end the Middle East peace negotiations.

Many of the deportees were in prison before they were sent here. All of them felt happy to leave the cells and their Israeli jailers and breathe freedom, even if it was away from home.

However, amid the sky-high moral that pierces through the freezing cold in Marj az-Zahour, a touch of sadness can easily be detected. "I miss my children and my wife," said Abu-Laila. "I am dead worried about their well-being and safety. I was their only bread earner." He uttered in trembling voice as his eyes filled with tears.

Another source of distress was a dozen men aged 60 or more. They cannot always cope, and sit helpless in a corner of their tents, praying.

Israel digs in, page 1



Sleeper awaits: a Palestinian dozing in the no man's land encampment at Marj az-Zahour after being deported from Israel last week

## De Klerk purges military top brass

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT de Klerk has ordered the immediate compulsory retirement or suspension from duty of 23 officers of the South African Defence Force, including at least two generals and four brigadiers: an unprecedented purge of the South African military establishment.

Mr de Klerk's action comes after last month's raid on a military intelligence unit by investigators of the Goldstone commission on violence when documents disclosing plans to implicate African National Congress members in crimes were seized.

Yesterday, white farmers threatened to take up arms and hunt down gangs of gunmen after a girl was shot dead in a midnight attack on an isolated farmhouse close to the border with Lesotho. Louise Pretorius, 14, was watching television with her brother and a friend at her home near Ficksburg in the Orange Free State, while her parents slept, when the attackers struck late on Saturday night. They

hurled a grenade which exploded outside, and opened fire with automatic weapons hitting Louise in the chest.

At a press conference in Cape Town on Saturday, Mr de Klerk said he thought the findings of the enquiry into the results of the Goldstone commission raid would "lead to the conclusion that some activities led to the deaths of people". The investigation into covert military activity is being carried out by Lieutenant General Pierre Steyn, the chief of staff.

Visibly upset by General Steyn's preliminary findings, Mr de Klerk said there was evidence that the officers had links with right-wing organisations outside government and aimed to "prevent us proceeding with our constitutional goals". Their names would be made public by the end of the month, but not those of what he termed their "civilian collaborators" — who would, however, be identified to the Goldstone commission and the police. Steps would be

taken to prevent evidence being destroyed.

Most of the officers involved are believed to be linked to the military intelligence unit known as the Directorate of Covert Collections. The Afrikaans newspaper *Rapport* claimed yesterday that they included Brigadier Tolletjie Botha, head of the directorate, and Brigadier Ferdie van Wyk, director of army communications operations. The defence force refused yesterday to comment on reports that the two senior generals were Major General Chris Thirion, deputy chief of staff, intelligence, and Major General Henrie Roux, army chief of staff.

Mac Maharaj, an ANC negotiator, said the organisation commended Mr de Klerk for acknowledging a situation that had long been plain to the ANC, but he had not gone far enough. Further investigations into all security agencies were needed and should involve all parties taking part in the talks, Mr Maharaj said.

In the area of the Orange Free State where the Saturday night raid took place, there have been many attacks on isolated farms by gunmen believed to hide in the mountains of Lesotho, and yesterday the Lesotho government assured Pretoria that it would give full co-operation in hunting Louise Pretorius's killers. The South African foreign ministry said a joint police operation was under way.

However, Pieter Gouwus, president of the Orange Free State agricultural union, said the farming community would have to reflect on whether to accept the government's position on safety in the area. "Possibly the farmers themselves will have to take action to root out these attackers," he said.

Two posts on the border of the Eastern Cape with the nominally independent Transkei black homeland have been closed after gunmen wounded three whites driving home from a shopping trip on Saturday.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### War victims 'killed in cold blood'

San Salvador: A forensic science report into the worst massacre of El Salvador's 12-year civil war says the victims were murdered in cold blood, a member of the investigating team announced.

Mercedes Doretti, an Argentine forensic anthropologist, ruled out government claims that the 143 victims could have been killed in combat between troops and left-wing rebels. The bodies were exhumed last month from the ruins of a small parish house in the remote hamlet of El Mozote. (Reuters)

### Activists freed

Madrid: Equatorial Guinea has freed more than a dozen opposition activists arrested last week, as well as two Spanish businessmen who were imprisoned for 12 years for alleged coup plotting. (AP)

### Water deaths

Delhi: At least 15 people were killed when an overhead water tank filled to its 450,000-gallon capacity collapsed in the southern Indian coastal city of Vijayawada. A row of thatched huts was swept away. (AFP)

### Kidnapper shot

San José: Orlando Ordóñez, 33, a former Honduran soldier who kidnapped a Costa Rican government official last September, was killed by police in Belize after he abducted El Salvador's consul-general there. (Reuters)

### Manager jailed

Peking: China jailed Zheng Henggang, a company manager, for ten years for dereliction of duty and selling state secrets to a foreign reporter who was said to have published them in a newspaper in Hong Kong. (Reuters)

### Bail rejected

Islamabad: A Pakistani anti-terrorist court revoked bail for Salman Taseer, the spokesman for the opposition party of Benazir Bhutto. He is accused of sedition. (Reuters)

## Marines land relief in city of looters

BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AMERICAN and Belgian troops swept ashore early yesterday to secure Kismayu, the port city that is the key to resuming relief operations in the so-called "dark zones" of southern Somalia.

Shortly after dawn, more than 300 American marines and Belgian commandos landed by amphibious vessels and helicopters from offshore warships as American warplanes from the carrier, *USS Kitty Hawk*, flew low overhead in a show of force.

A British pilot, Royal Marine Captain Paul Denning,

dents in and around Mogadishu at the weekend, the International Committee of the Red Cross lost 30 lorries laden with food to looters and the marines shot and wounded a young Somali on a "technical" gun-wagon. But the landing was completed within three hours, and without a shot being fired.

The joint force then had virtual control of a city where more than 60 had died only last week in fierce clan fighting involving an estimated 1,600 gunmen. Before yesterday, aid organisations had been almost unable to operate in Kismayu, with looters stealing up to 80 per cent of the relief supplies.

This was believed to be the first time American and allied troops had made a joint amphibious landing since the second world war, and Colonel Bob Peck, the US Marine Corps spokesman, said the operation, under Belgian command, had gone "very well and very much according to script". Before the landing, American planes had dropped leaflets on the city explaining the mission's purpose.



who flies a Cobra attack helicopter with his American counterparts, was involved in only the second incident to involve casualties when his aircraft came under fire from Somali gunmen in Mogadishu. They turned the helicopter's withering firepower on their attackers, killing at least two of them and wounding three in a clash that destroyed three of the makeshift battlewagons used by clan gunmen.

"We were directly under threat so we had no choice. We responded straightaway and hit the vehicle with a 20mm gun," said Captain Denning, 31, from Bath. He described the dash last week as "a simple act of self-defence". Captain Denning added: "There have been no major incidents since then. It served as a warning and they [the gunmen] took it as such." In two other inci-

Further north, a UN convoy carrying 300 tons of food left Mogadishu under armed escort for the town of Baidoa, 150 miles inland, which about 900 American and French troops secured last Wednesday. The convoy, carrying enough supplies to feed 100,000 people for a week, was "the beginning of the end of the humanitarian crisis here," said Paul Mitchell, of the UN's World Food Programme.

## Cuban pilot drops back in to pick up the family

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

ORESTES Lorenzo Peres, a former major in the Cuban air force who defected to America in a stolen Mig23 fighter plane in March last year, flew back to Cuba at the weekend on a daring mission to pick up the wife and two sons whom he left behind.

"It was all or nothing," Maria Victoria Rojas, his wife, said, adding that she had received instructions from her husband two days before the escape. "We were all running the risk together."

For the second time in 20 months, Señor Lorenzo dodged Cuba's air defence radar system by flying low over the 90-mile wide Straits of Florida that separate Cuba from America. "If you do not hear from me in one hour, you know I failed and I am dead," Señor Lorenzo told friends before he left Marathon airport in the Florida Keys, south of Miami.

Flying solo in a borrowed

Cessna 310 four-seat aircraft, Señor Lorenzo made the journey to the north coast of Cuba in 43 minutes, landing on the two-lane main road that runs along the north coast between Havana and the resort peninsula of Varadero.

Drivers on the busy road watched as Señor Lorenzo landed his plane between a bus and a lorry forcing traffic to halt. "I landed in front of a car and they all had to stop. I turned the plane around. I opened the door. They got in. And off we went," Señor Lorenzo said.

Señora Lorenzo and her two sons, Alejandro, six, and Reyniel, 11, had been waiting for five hours by the beach. "The children knew nothing, not even why we were there," Señora Lorenzo said. "It's your daddy — run!" she told the boys when they saw the plane. As they scrambled across the road, Alejandro lost his shoes, but all three



Pressure on Castro: held a "democratic" election

made it on board safely and Señor Lorenzo headed back for Florida.

A few minutes later, friends waiting in Marathon Key heard Señor Lorenzo's voice over the pre-arranged frequency. "At first I could not make out what he was say-

ing," Kristina Arriaga said. "Then I heard him say, 'A plane full of love is on its way' and I knew everything was OK." The family arrived soon after in Marathon where they were met by friends and FBI agents.

They switched planes to a

small executive jet and flew on to OpaLocka airport in Miami where they were interviewed by journalists. "I brought my family to the US and they are free now," Señor Lorenzo said. "It is the greatest feeling in the world."

Miami's large Cuban exile community received Señor Lorenzo as a hero. "He makes James Bond look like a small boy," said a caller to a local Spanish station.

□ Cuban poll: Cubans went to the polls yesterday in the country's first direct, secret ballot in almost 34 years of revolutionary rule under President Castro.

The government called the elections "the most democratic in the world" and told Cubans that it was their patriotic duty to vote. Few people expressed much interest in voting because all the candidates have been picked by grassroots Communist party organisations.

Photograph, page 1



## Nationalists suffer severe setback in Taiwan polls

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN TAIPEI

TAIWAN'S ruling Nationalist party, the Kuomintang, was dealt a heavy blow in the first free parliamentary elections here in more than 40 years, making reunification of the island with mainland China even less likely in the foreseeable future.

The Kuomintang (KMT) still remains securely in power, with a majority of 61.7 per cent of votes and 96 seats in Sunday's election. Its arch-rival, the Democratic Progress Party (DPP), some of whose leaders were previously in prison, and which has called for Taiwanese independence, narrowed the difference. They gained 36 per cent of the vote and 50 seats in the 161-member Legislative Yuan.

James Soong, the secretary-general of the KMT, resigned last night, saying he was taking responsibility for the setback. "Our party is dissatisfied with the outcome, but we have to accept the voters' choice," a foreign academic noted. "These were the first really free elections in the 3,500 years of China's history."



Bubbling: Soong celebrates the Democratic success

The DPP has exceeded its widest expectations. Diplomats said the voting illustrated Taiwan was on its way to becoming a genuine democracy, and proved to mainland Communist rulers that democracy was possible in a Chinese setting. Peking was unlikely to be happy over the growing calls for democracy here, and in Hong Kong.

The KMT has ruled Taiwan since the late General Chiang Kai-shek fled with his troops to the island in 1949 after defeat by Mao Tse-tung's Red Army.

Until the poll, the first without the participation of "old thieves", veteran mainland politicians who held seats representing "phantom" constituencies in pre-Communist China, the DPP held only 18 seats. In last year's national assembly election, the KMT won an overwhelming victory, garnering 70 per cent of votes.

Amid the pop of champagne corks at DPP headquarters, Shu Hsin-liang, the party chairman, said henceforth Taiwan would have two-party politics and that the DPP was working towards eventually becoming the ruling party. Independents and KMT members running without party blessing received 15 seats. Hsu Hsiao-dan, the stripper-turned candidate who said she represented the poor and dispossessed, lost by only 107 votes against a powerful KMT businessman.

Diplomats said the DPP's strong showing made reunification — the goal of the Chinese Communists and the KMT, though each on its own terms — less likely in the short term. The DPP campaigned for democratic reform, social justice and a crackdown on corruption, while the KMT emphasised continued stability and prosperity under its tenure. Independence issues were played down.



Prayer mission: Mother Teresa attending an inter-faith ceremony at the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi in Delhi yesterday to express anguish over the Ayodhya mosque destruction. Police, meanwhile, arrested Hindu protesters in the Indian capital

## Khmer Rouge releases UN peacekeepers unharmed

FROM REUTER IN PHNOM PENH

KHMER Rouge guerrillas yesterday freed 11 UN peacekeepers, whom they had kidnapped and threatened to kill, the United Nations said. The confrontation was the most serious yet between the UN and the guerrillas, who are refusing to implement a peace agreement for Cambodia signed last year.

The 11 UN personnel — a Uruguayan officer, seven Uruguayan soldiers, an interpreter, a Russian helicopter pilot and a Russian military observer — were in good health after their two-day ordeal. Eric Falt, for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac), said.

The release came after more than four hours of negotiations at the hostage site in Kratie province, eastern Cambodia, between General Nuon Bunno, the senior Khmer Rouge military representative in Phnom Penh, and UN officials.

On Saturday, the local commander who took the men prisoner freed three other UN hostages to deliver a warning to Untac that the 11 would be killed and their helicopter destroyed if an attempt were made to rescue them by force.

Mr Falt said the hostages and their helicopter arrived safely in the town of Kratie, a

government-held provincial capital about 15 miles from the village of Stoeng Thom where they had been held since Friday. It was the fourth time this month that the Khmer Rouge had seized then released Untac peacekeepers, but the first time the guerrillas had made a death threat. Khieu Samphan, the leader

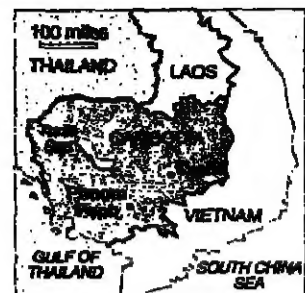
local guerrilla commander to seize the aircraft and take the men hostage, Mr Falt said.

On Saturday, Untac said that the peacekeepers had been invited to the village and described the hostage seizure as a "carefully constructed trap". It said that the hostage site was heavily mined and defended by a force of at least 350 well-armed guerrillas.

Untac's relations with the Khmer Rouge have deteriorated since the security council imposed trade sanctions against the guerrillas last month for refusing to implement the terms of the Cambodia peace accords signed in Paris last year.

The Khmer Rouge accuses Untac of not taking seriously its allegation that many Vietnamese soldiers are still in Cambodia. Vietnam says all its troops left in 1989. The Khmer Rouge wants the transfer of power from the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government to a body in which all four Cambodian factions are represented.

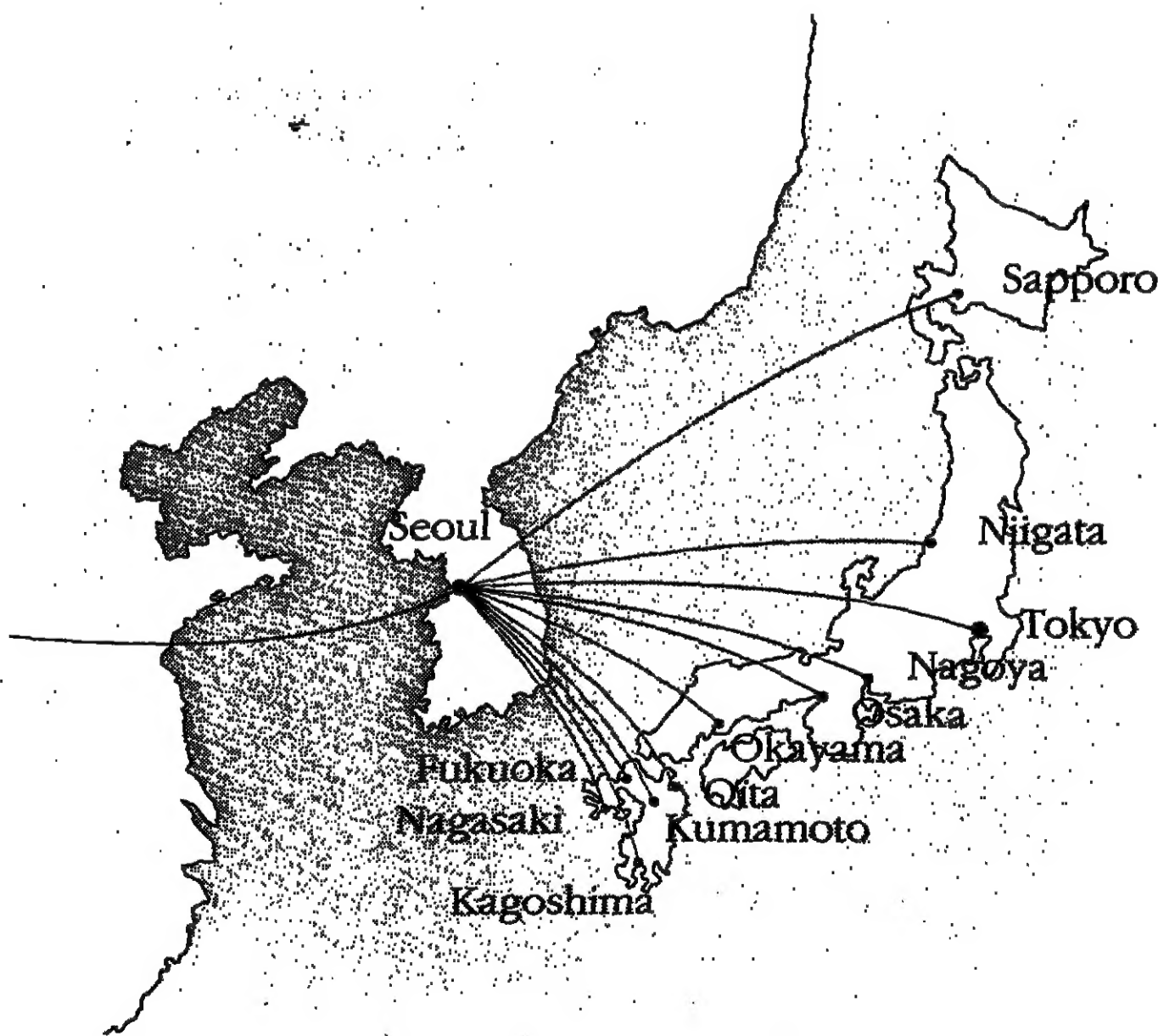
The radical guerrilla group, responsible for a reign of terror in the 1970s in which more than a million Cambodians were killed, refused to lay down its arms and allow peacekeepers into its zones as required under the accords.



of the Khmer Rouge, issued a statement yesterday accusing Untac of provoking the confrontations by entering Khmer Rouge zones without permission. He said that that was part of a plot to discredit his group and mislead the UN Security Council into imposing sanctions against it.

Untac has acknowledged that the peacekeepers' helicopter landed at Stoeng Thom without warning. That may have prompted a nervous

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# KOREAN AIR

## Korean electors vote for stability

FROM JOANNA FITTMAN IN SEOUL

IN WHAT was judged to have been Korea's fairest election, South Korean voters elected Kim Young Sam, the candidate of the ruling Democratic Liberal party, as their president, sending the first civilian leader to the Blue House after 30 years of military rule.

Mr Kim will take over from President Roh Tae Woo in February. In his victory statement, the president-elect said that he would try to unify the divided nation, work towards broad domestic reforms, and maintain traditional alliances with Japan and America.

For Mr Kim, the presidency comes as a reward for 30 years of dissident opposition and a debt and well-timed merger last year of his opposition party with Mr Roh's ruling party. Reports put the turnout at 80.4 per cent. Of that, Mr Kim won 42 per cent, giving him a higher margin than expected over Kim Dae Jung, the leader of the main opposition Democratic party, who took 33.9 per cent.

The third main candidate, Chung Ju Yung, 77, the business tycoon turned politician who founded Hyundai, South Korea's largest industrial conglomerate, had been expected to drain Kim Young Sam's support and therefore boost Kim Dae Jung. Mr Chung won 16.2 per cent.

Mr Kim's unexpectedly strong win betrays the fundamentally conservative nature of South Koreans who selected the candidate representing stability and continuity over his professional firebrand opponent, Kim Dae Jung.

The election is being interpreted as testimony of the progress achieved by South Korea in the short period since its military authoritarian rulers backed down in the face of mass protests and granted free elections in 1987.

On Friday, the three main candidates, from very different backgrounds, competed on tolerably equal terms, none of them challenging any fundamental precepts of government or society. Mr Kim will be judged by his ability to reverse slowing economic growth and rising unemployment, inflation and corporate bankruptcies.

## Kenyans plead for food airlift

Nairobi: Up to 180,000 people in northeast Kenya are in urgent need of food because floods have cut roads there, Kenya radio said.

The district commissioner at Garissa appealed for an airlift to move food to areas cut off after several weeks of heavy rain. The local famine relief committee estimated that 180,000 people were at risk because it was not possible to transport food to feeding centres. (Reuters)

## Guns stolen

Berlin: Robbers slipped into the army headquarters for eastern Germany, overpowered guards, and got away with machineguns, assault rifles and bazookas. (AP)

## Unita pulls out

Lisbon: The opposition Unita movement has agreed to withdraw its troops from two northern Angolan towns and resume dialogue with the ruling MPLA. An American official said that talks could begin in the next few days. (Reuters)

## Shop protests

Madrid: Thousands of Spanish shopkeepers gathered in the heart of Madrid's commercial district and clashed with police in a protest over the long hours kept by large department stores. At least four people were hurt. (AP)

## Anti-bribe drive

Algiers: Algeria has named ten magistrates to tackle a web of alleged corruption ranging from charges of bribes from foreign firms totalling \$16.5 billion to smuggling through the Sahara desert. (Reuters)

## Britons visited

Baghdad: A Russian diplomat, Oleg Dessiannikov, who visited two imprisoned Britons, Michael Wainwright and Paul Ride, said that they were coping well and looking forward to Christmas gifts from their families. (Reuters)

## Fatal abuse

Baltimore: Up to four US children die daily of abuse or neglect, a research centre survey said. Cases reported last year rose to 2.7 million, up from 2.5 million in 1990. (AP)







**THE SUNDAY TIMES**





Matthew Parris

■ It is unhealthy when things that are true, and expressed honestly, enrage people

Birmingham taxi drivers can moralise as well as cabbies anywhere. "Take reckless driving," said mine, swivelling round to face me from the driver's seat as we sped along the road. "I'll give you a recent example. The only daughter of a local couple was run over by a car. Killed instantly — terrible mess. The driver was only 16. No licence, no insurance. And he had nicked the car. They took him to court. And do you know what he got?"

"No," I said.

"Go on," he said. "Guess. She was killed, remember?"

"Well," I hesitated. "I can't guess. It would depend partly on whether it was his fault."

"Well of course it was his fault," insisted the cabbie. "I told you, didn't I, he was a joyrider. No right to be at the wheel of that car."

"Yes," I said, "but how dangerously was he driving? The sentence would have to reflect that."

The taxi driver grew impatient. "Look, she was killed, mate. Innocent young girl. Spread all over the road. And him with no licence, no insurance, nothing. And d'you know what they gave him? £80 fine and two months' suspended detention or community service, or something. It's a bloody disgrace. Think of her parents."

I persisted: "But look at it this way: say it was you driving along the road. Driving safely — OK? — and everything legit: tax, insurance, licence, everything, and a child runs in front of you. Nothing you can do, right? Child killed. Parents heartbroken, but not your fault. Are you saying you should go to prison?"

"Pause. No, but I'm in the clear, aren't I? He wasn't. Broke the law — stole the car and killed her. They should have taken him for everything he'd got. Didn't I say she was her parents' only kid? Think how they felt when they saw him walk free. Think how you would feel."

"But it's not the act of being without documents that killed her," I said, beginning to despair of the argument, "but his driving. The question has got to be, was it dangerous, and if so, how dangerous? Not having the documents is a lesser offence."

"Bloody disgrace," he muttered, "their only child. Blood everywhere. All over the road. And him with no right to be in that car."

Some arguments you just cannot win. The concept of alibi is embedded deep in our folk morality. It may find scant echo in official justice, but it resonates in popular justice. Whenever the consequence of negligence is worse than the negligence itself, people will want to see that reflected in the punishment. We might still be with Moses in the desert, rather than with my cabbie in Birmingham, for all the change of heart the intervening millennia have wrought.

Like wood, popular thinking has a grain which will not easily counter, though all the logic in the world support you. Try, for instance, explaining to your grandparents why things do not really cost more than when they were children. You can carefully take them through the argument that when wages rise in line with prices the real costs remain the same, and they will nod and say, "Yes, dear, I see" — and ten minutes later be harping away again about how a Mini used to cost £500 in the good old days.

This fallacy is harmless: more awkward is the deep-seated human belief that a "fair" price or wage can be determined by honest contemplation, rather than by the state of the market. To my aunt — who votes Conservative, takes *The Daily Telegraph* and regards socialism as the work of the devil — a fair price is what will secure a "decent" profit after paying employees a "reasonable" wage. She believes it wrong to profit from scarcity or "exploit" cheap labour.

So do most of her countrymen. I doubt whether many bishops really accept the central principles of the free market. Most people think it's crazy for two bus companies to run the same route. How many people will defend the theory of competition when you put it to them that if two companies, side by side, are providing the same manufactured goods or services, duplicating energies and facilities in the pursuit of competitive advantage, then it's an immoral waste? When you put it like that, most people respond "hear, hear".

Our morality does not mesh with our economic system: but because we need both, they cohabit in an awkward marriage based on silence. Elected politicians, sharing with the electorate no moral language in which to discuss economics, are forced to lie or bribe where they ought to explain. Attempts to explain — in such phrases as "it isn't hurting, it isn't working", or "unemployment is a price well worth paying" — enrage the common people.

It is unhealthy when things that are true, and expressed honestly, enrage people. Peking is wise to modernise the Chinese economy before permitting democracy. Pinochet did the same in Chile. Boris Yeltsin is trying it the other way round, but in Lithuania we learn that President Landsbergis has failed. Has a popular democrat ever imposed a free market upon what was a command economy, and survived? I only ask.

A final example: for seven years as a Tory MP I tried to find a way of answering the one question which arose at every public meeting: "Now that machines are doing the work of so many people, Mr Parris, shouldn't we stop pretending that we can ever get back to full employment, and accept that forced leisure is going to be a permanent part of life in the future?"

Of course, this is a complete misunderstanding of the consequences of mechanisation, as every industrial revolution has proved. The same fear has arisen every time, and every time it has been proved unfounded. Yet no rational argument or example ever persuaded any audience, including mine, that this time, too, it will prove unfounded.

You might as well try to tell them that wrapping a block of ice in a blanket can stop it melting.

The real reasons for the American president's defeat are a warning to John Major, writes Peter Riddell

## An alarm bell called Bush

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

John Major should have done more than commiserate with George Bush during their weekend get-together at Camp David. He should have found out the real reasons for the American president's defeat seven weeks ago. They provide a warning to Mr Major if he is to avoid defeat himself in four years' time.

At present there is a danger of premature optimism, even complacency, among ministers. That partly reflects relief after the horrors of September and October. Some ministers date the turning point to the "paying" debate on the Maastricht Bill on November 4; others refer to the Autumn Statement a week later. These events stopped the rot. A glimpse of better times has been added by the successful outcome to the Edinburgh summit and by the tentative signs of an end to the recession.

The worst of the debilitating battle over the Maastricht Bill may be over. After Edinburgh, and provided the Danes vote yes in the spring, the outcome at Westminster should not be in doubt. The pit-closure fiasco will soon be "rectified". As long as the economy is moving upwards, however slowly, then political pressures should ease.

There is something in this, though a price still has to be paid for the débacle of September 16. The danger of a rise in inflation may soon reappear and taxes will have to be raised to bring public borrowing under control. The Tories face poor local and by-election results over the next 18 months.

The central question is whether the Major government can regain a sense of direction. That is where the Bush parallel is relevant. After Mr Bush's victory last April, American Republicans drew the wrong conclusions. They assumed that the Tories' negative campaigns against Labour over taxes and over whether Neil Kinnock could be trusted would work in America. But they did not. This was not just because of the way the attacks were implemented or because Bill Clinton positioned himself more adeptly than Mr Kinnock, and the Democrats were less handicapped by memories of the early 1980s than Labour was.

The main reasons why Mr

Major won and Mr Bush lost were less to do with their attacks on their opponents than with themselves. Winning votes turns on giving the impression that you are in charge and can change things. Mr Major and Mr Clinton conveyed that impression. Mr Bush and Mr Kinnock (through his desire to appear respectable and responsible) did not.

The Tories won because Mr Major appeared as the fresh head of a new government who had distanced himself from the unpopular aspects of the Thatcher era. He also skillfully finessed the inner contradictions within the Tory party, notably over Europe, which resurfaced only after the election. He gave people a reason to vote Tory. By contrast, Mr Bush looked tired, the stale head of an old government which had run

out of ideas. His successful handling of the end of the Cold war and his leadership during the Gulf crisis were not sufficient when he was so obviously not interested in domestic policy. He never showed why the American people should give him a second term.

Mr Major should read an article in the December 14 issue of *The New Republic* by James Pinkerton, former deputy assistant for policy planning in the White House, the equivalent of a member of the Downing Street Policy Unit. Mr Pinkerton is best known for his advocacy of the New Paradigm, a strategy for post-bureaucratic government resting on the principles of choice, decentralisation and empowerment. More bluntly, he argues that "Americans agreed that we weren't going to throw people into the snow, but we also agreed we weren't going to build socialism". The hopes of this group turned on Jack Kemp's attempt to break up the rigid structure of public housing. Mr Pinkerton

records how these and parallel initiatives were frustrated by Mr Bush's lack of interest and the opposition of key advisers such as John Sununu, White House chief of staff, and Richard Darman, the budget director. The political opportunity of the victory of the Gulf war was wasted in minor legislative proposals. Instead, the Bush administration relied on managing the legacy of the 1980s. So when the election came, the president had little to say.

What Mr Pinkerton describes as a new activism in education, housing, health care and environmental protection has echoes on this side of the Atlantic. It is reflected not just in the agenda of the *No Turning Back* group of Tory MPs but also in parts of the citizen's charter and the work of the Social Market Foundation (former Owenite SDP members, now mainly Tories). Ministers can point to existing government plans in housing, grant-maintained schools and health service trusts. Fresh initiatives are promised in

the new year to show that the government has not lost momentum — in the areas of deregulation, education and training for 16- to 19-year-olds, government-industry relations, plus a consultative paper on road pricing.

The snag is that the whole is less than the sum of the parts. Ministers are busy, but in ways defined by the life of their Whitehall departments. The appearance is of incrementalism, even when the policies are more radical. That is partly the result of the switch in style from Baroness Thatcher to Mr Major. The citizen's charter is in many ways Mr Major's Big Idea — and it is not a bad one — but his presentation of it in mundane, everyday terms has invited ridicule and reduced its political impact. And, although a majority of 31 also applies new constraints absent during the 1980s, that is no excuse for a lack of coherence. The lesson of Mr Bush's defeat is that Mr Major has to maintain an active domestic programme. The Tories have to show not just that they can be competent in government (in doubt after the past few months) but also that they still have fresh approaches to policymaking.

## The bun that would be king

Bernard Levin offers free advice to the fast-food merchants who are planning to move up-market

To start with, I bet you didn't know that in California (where else?) a financial business, has a "restaurant analyst" on the team: he is a Mr Michael Mueller, and in case you thought that he was the man from the local health authority analysing the food in restaurants to see if impurities or microbes have got into the *poulet de brosse* or the *dame de saumon*, you were wrong. Mr Mueller analyses, no doubt with the help of regularly updated wall-charts printed out from his computer, the relative profit and loss positions in the market for hamburgers.

What is more, Mr Mueller's computer must be red hot by now, anent the news that the Burger King chain is going, as we restaurant analysts say, "up-market". Eschewing the offensive suggestion that Burger King could hardly be going down-market, let us see how the process is getting on.

It is getting on amazingly. First, Burger King is hiring waiters — real waiters, quite possibly topped up with the entire outfit, tails and all — to serve the customers. And what service! Burger King patrons can look forward to tablecloths, no less, and even napkin rings. (There is no reference to napkins, but a room full of customers twiddling their empty napkin rings would look rather forlorn, so I take it Burger King has attended to that problem.)

Mind you, that leads to another headache: I do hope Burger King is not proposing to provide very fancy napkin rings, for when the word gets around it will realise that the profit on even the biggest burger will not cover an 18th-century hall-marked silver napkin ring or, for that matter, a double-damask-dinner napkin. (Ah, but you have to be as old as I am to know about the double-damask bit.) No wonder Montgomery Securities in general and Mr Mueller in particular can be seen in the latest Cadillac.

And it is not only the appurte-

nances that have been smartened up: it is the menu, too. No longer will the choice be between burger with pickles or burger with tomato sauce, burger rare or burger well-done, burger large or burger medium (there are, of course, no small burgers), for now we shall be able to tuck in to a meal — brought by a real waiter, remember — which offers among the burgers, delights such as *crispy chicken fillet*, *fried shrimp* and *steak sandwiches*. With all of these, Burger King will offer a choice of a baked potato or chips, and a salad or coleslaw, but there is one strange, sinister item of difference in the menu. Of those three main dishes, if you take the chicken or the shrimps you get a bread roll; but if you opt for the *steak sandwich* you don't.

For that, we shall very soon see Burger King in court: America being what she is, there will be a rain of plaintiffs claiming that the missing roll has deprived them of their constitutional rights and ruined their lives, and that the ensuing unassuageable hurt should be compensated by not less than several dozen millions of dollars. Meanwhile, Montgomery Securities and Mr Mueller have each bought a 38-room country cottage in the Adirondacks.

All this was started by Burger King's consumer research, guided by no less a figure than Mr Sidney J. Feltenstein, Executive Vice-President of Brand Strategy (and what's a nice Jewish boy doing in a title like that without making sure that the burgers are kosher. I'd like to know, and so would his mother). Anyway, Mr Feltenstein's enquiries fetched up at the "industry analysts", who found that Burger King, and even McDonald's, were being undercut by rivals, and Mr Mueller added a helicopter pad to his private ski-slope, while Montgomery Securities had the roof gold-plated.

The strategy, of course, depends on enticing into Burger



King restaurants those who, if they go out to dinner, prefer a restaurant with a wider selection of dishes, but Mr Mueller is on record as saying that such diners would be unlikely to go to a fast-food restaurant for dinner, "so it's questionable whether the strategy will work".

Suck it and see. But we can't, because the new, exciting, up-market Burger King is not available outside the United States, which is perfectly scandalous, because Burger King is part of Grand Met, which is a British concern (or was when I last saw it). I doubt if Mr Mueller will starve, though.

When did the Rise of the Hamburger take place, and why? I remember from childhood two figures who were always eating: Popeye, with his addiction to spinach, and

Wimpy, who was always running what would be called a hamburger today, though I am fairly sure the word had not been attached to the thing then. More to the point, how did it set off the fast-food industry?

Brewer says that the hamburger was known centuries ago, and introduced to the United States by sailors from Hamburg. A "Hamburg steak" figures in the *OED*, but it is only described — its Hamburgness not explained. No doubt McDonald's and Burger King and Wendy's (to say nothing of Wendy's itself) would say never mind the etymology, enjoy the taste. But that is the core of the mystery: how did the hamburger sweep the board, driving out even fish and chips?

How many vast herds, every year, are required to feed the insatiable hunger for half a pound of chopped meat between the halves of a soft bun? Think: there are 5,700 Burger King restaurants in the United States alone, and extrapolating from that supplying fact I cannot see how the total number of hamburger eateries, worldwide and encompassing all chains, can be short of 50,000. How many hamburgers each a day? 1,000 at least, I guess: perhaps a good many more. How can such gaping voracity be placated?

I do my bit. You will be astonished to learn that I am very partial to a hamburger, though before you all faint dead away, I have to tell you that I do not frequent Burger Kings or any of their rivals. I buy the

finest sirloin from the finest butchers, trim it thoroughly, mince it carefully, season it properly, and cook it slightly longer than I ought to. Then I open a fitting bottle, put on the appropriate CD (something stirring, like the Schumann piano concerto or the Brahms first) and declare the bachelor life not bad at all. Can Mr Mueller say more, for all his private jets?

That doesn't solve the problem of the origins of the name or the demand for the thing, and indeed leads only to another riddle. Have you ever wondered what happens in the German football league when — and it must happen every season — the Hamburgers play the Frankfurters? One day I shall get the mustard concession and be rich. Though not as rich as Montgomery Securities, of course.

### Storybook ending

A CHRISTMAS tale to cheer the sonnet of hearts. Tim Waterstone, the pukka, balding bookseller and Mohamed Al-Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, have kissed and made up in time for the busiest week of the retailers' year.

Last month the two announced they were to "part company" only months after the razzle-dazzle opening of the Waterstone's bookstore in Harrods. Ivana Trump cut the ribbon, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare sipped champagne. The book world turned out in force. Hardly was the ink dry on the contract than Waterstone's announced it would quit in March.

There were reports that bookshop staff had been forced to work on Sundays. There were murmurings about the scruffy dress of some employees. Worse, Al-Fayed was said to have tripped over the same pile of books on the floor twice, and Lord Parkinson was reported aggrieved that there was no copy of his autobiography there two weeks after it had been published.

It seemed as if nothing short

of a visit from Henry Kissinger would effect a reconciliation. But it has happened, and Tim Waterstone's departure for the US does not seem to have hindered the process. There are also suggestions that W.H. Smith, which owns Waterstone's, may have balked at the idea of writing off the shop-fitting costs, estimated as high as £500,000. The most pressing reason, however, may have been commercial rivalry — the prospect of Dillons taking over the Harrods bookshop. Terry Maher, chairman of Pentos, which owns Dillons, says: "We did talk to Harrods but the terms they had in mind meant that it would not have been a profitable venture for us."

Waterstone's says it has now renegotiated its contract with the store but refuses to say on what basis. "It was a purely commercial decision to part and it is a commercial decision to stay." Goodwill towards men, including Waterstone's sales staff, has been restored and the title will continue to ring out their merry Christmas message.

● Good news, too, for the troubled, depressed, sick and those who cannot stomach another round of Bruce Forsyth's Christmas Generation Game. From New Year's day



### DIARY

they are to be targeted by Radio Vaticana, which is to broadcast English-language programmes via satellite. The new offerings from the station include Room with a View of the Vatican and, for those with questions about the Catholic faith, Ask the Abbot, a programme for which the diary predicts a cult following before spring.



### Burnt-out case

THOR is alive and well and has anti-Maastricht tendencies, it would appear. Edinburgh's Scandic Crown Hotel, scene of much skulduggery during the summit, went up in flames early on Sunday morning and there is speculation that the curse of Maastricht has struck again.

The hotel, opened two years ago, was to host the Campaign for an Independent Britain alternative summit this month. But with only days to go, the anti-Maastricht group had its reservation cancelled to make way for the Danish government, battling to find a palatable way of presenting the Maastricht treaty to its people. Now the gods appear to have struck back.

But it is not only the anti-Maastricht lobby whose wrath has been incurred by the Scandic Crown. The hotel, com-

plete with fairytale turrets, is considered by many to be a blot on the Scottish capital. Richard Murphy, an Edinburgh-based architect, says: "If people want to see Disneyland, then I believe there is one near Paris." With so many detractors, it is something of a triumph that the building has survived this long.

### Naked affront

THE FIRST snows of winter have fallen on New Jersey, and in keeping with tradition Princeton University students stripped off for the "Nude Olympics". Last year 22 of those who frolicked in winter ended up making a court appearance in the summer after the local police filmed the event. They were each fined \$100, even one who claimed not to have been nude on the ground that he was wearing a skunk hat.

This winter, undeterred, 200 students participated and 198 managed to avoid arrest. The unlucky two have been charged with lewdness, disorderly conduct and the theft of a gallon of ice-cream. The university now says it would like to see an end to the tradition which began during the streaking era. But as Justin Harmon, a spokesman for the university, says: "It's not behaviour we can condone. It's

not behaviour we feel we can prevent."

### This way, José

BRITISH RAIL has a fan. No, he is not British. José L. Pérez, a resident of Barcelona, has written to Paul Theroux to sing the virtues of Britain's railway network. Pérez has just completed a journey round the coastline from Dover to St Andrews using as his guide Theroux's ten-year-old travel book *The Kingdom by the Sea*.

Pérez writes: "I'm pleased to inform you that the branch lines that you feared would disappear when you did your travel are still alive and well. BR had new regional trains to serve these lines that are a far cry better than the Spanish ones."

Theroux, who made the trip partly because he found himself joking about Bognor Regis without ever having been there, says: "Naturally I was delighted that a ten-year-old travel book still has power to inspire enough *vaya con dios* in the man from Barcelona to rediscover the British Isles through its railways. I was happiest from his letter to learn that the branch line to Whitby is still operating. As long as it stays open there is hope for the future."





## A FRESH START

The new Bank governor should not be tainted by failure

The governorship of the Bank of England is the grandest, as well as the highest-paid, appointment in the gift of the prime minister. It is arguably the top job in the public sector and will become even more important if Britain ratifies the Maastricht Treaty, ceding more power to the committee of European central banks. Mr Major will therefore be making a decision of great symbolic and policy importance soon after Christmas, when he is due to choose the man or woman to fill this post. From what is known of the shortlist of candidates, Mr Major may be in danger of making a serious mistake.

One shortlist consists of several well qualified candidates from outside the public sector, such as Sir David Scholey, chairman of the merchant bank S. G. Warburg. The other shortlist includes senior officials from within the government, led by Eddie George, the Bank of England's present deputy governor, and Sir Peter Middleton, the former permanent secretary of the Treasury, who is now deputy chairman of Barclays Bank. It is clear which list Mr Major should use. If he is serious about improving the management of the public sector, he must not choose a candidate from inside the Treasury or the Bank.

This has nothing to do with the competence of the individuals in question. The reason for rejecting all serving and recent Bank and Treasury officials can be summarised in two phrases: Black Wednesday and BCCI. These have been two of the costliest disasters in the history of British public administration. The government's losses from the fruitless defence of the pound on Black Wednesday have recently been estimated at up to £6 billion by the authoritative *Journal Central Bank*.

It seems morally inconceivable that any of the senior officials involved in the formulation and execution of monetary policy

should even be considered so soon after Black Wednesday, for promotion to the nation's most senior economic post. It would be equally bizarre if a Bank of England official whose responsibilities included oversight of bank regulation were made governor just three months after the publication of Lord Justice Bingham's damning report on the Bank's role in BCCI.

It may be that the particular officials on Mr Major's shortlist privately advised against the policies that led up to Black Wednesday. Perhaps they knew nothing personally about BCCI. Until the public records are unsealed in 2022, nobody will know who said what to whom in the secret recesses of the Treasury and Bank of England. But this is irrelevant. The people at the top of government must take responsibility for their departments and for mistakes made "on their watch", even if there is no documentary evidence to pin these misjudgements personally on them.

After Black Wednesday and the Bingham inquiry, the Treasury and the Bank ignored all demands for official resignations. The prime minister stood by his officials, partly because the individuals attacked claimed not to have been directly involved in the policy errors in question. Perhaps a presumption of innocence was fair when dismissals were being considered, but the same cannot be true when it comes to promotion.

To command respect as the next governor of the Bank of England, any present or recent official at the Bank and the Treasury would have to prove beyond doubt, and in public, that he was untainted by the débâcles of BCCI and Black Wednesday. If he could not do so, he would undermine confidence both in the Bank of England and in the prime minister's judgment. He would also prove that in Britain's public sector, failure does not bring penalties, but rewards.

## WAR OR PEACE?

The choice in the Serbian elections is clear-cut

Slobodan Milosevic, say the cynics in Belgrade, would never have agreed to elections if he were not sure of winning them. The odds in yesterday's contest — which will have a weighty effect on the outcome of the war in Bosnia and elsewhere in former Yugoslavia — have been heavily stacked in Mr Milosevic's favour.

Mr Milosevic's power is based on his control over state television, his influence on the national bank, his command of the police machine and the sympathy of some generals within the former Yugoslav army. Thus in the weeks before the election he has been able to increase wages of workers and of sole payments to the unemployed simply by having more money printed.

In the past 18 months Mr Milosevic has presided over three costly wars and has succeeded in making Serbia an international pariah. Yet his institutional strength allows him to invert every failure and to project himself as a caring, patriarchal leader. The shortage of medicine, for example, is blamed not on the pharmaceuticals (which supplied many pharmaceuticals) or Belgrade's economic blundering, but on the callous West.

There is a strong chance then that Mr Milosevic could win the election more or less honestly. But the opinion polls that gave his main challenger, Milan Panic, prime minister of rump-Yugoslavia, such a convincing lead last week have to be taken seriously. In particular the city of Belgrade gave Mr Panic a resounding 69 per cent approval compared to 29 per cent for Mr Milosevic. The trend is similar, though less dramatic, in other large Serbian towns. Win or lose, that is the hope for the future of Serbia.

Mr Panic cuts a strange figure. A former bicycling champion who defected to America and made a fortune, who speaks Serbo-

Croat with a heavy accent, he entered the political scene only a year ago. The betting at the time was that Mr Panic would turn out like Ross Perot, or Stanislaw Tyndinski of Poland, businessmen-politicians who offered quick-fix solutions and failed for lack of a party or a coherent programme.

The mood, however, has changed. Mr Panic's promises may be unrealistic but they speak to the needs of the urban and more European-minded Serbs. He pledges not only to end the war, but to ease the police state conditions in Kosovo, put war criminals on trial and build a market economy.

Mr Panic has not delivered on any of these or other promises made at international conferences, but that is not entirely his fault. As prime minister of rump-Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — he occupies a fake job. But as Serbian president he could begin to make a real impact. Above all he could help prevent the spread of war to Kosovo and Macedonia. As such he must be the favoured candidate of the West.

An added danger may emerge, however, if neither man secures enough to win in the first round. Mr Milosevic could well turn all of his institutional power against Mr Panic and bring Serbia close to civil war. Or his frustrated supporters may again whip up Serbian nationalist sentiment in Kosovo, provoke ethnic Albanian unrest and plunge the region into chaos.

An argument can be heard in European chancelleries that a securely re-elected Mr Milosevic would be easier to deal with than a displaced Mr Milosevic who would do his best to destabilise the Panic regime. This line of thinking, however, should be rejected. The choice in the presidential elections is a clear one and should not be muddled with European pragmatism. It is a choice between war and peace.

## SEASONAL SOLECISMS

Christmas Past: a series on the unchanging face of the season  
Two: from *The Times* of 23 December, 1953

In the great saucer-like eyes of the law it is, one imagines, some sort of a crime or misdemeanour to write on a Christmas card anything more than one's name and a few words of salutation — unless, of course, the envelope is licked up and bears a two penny halfpenny stamp like a proper letter.

The manufacturers of these cards generally do most of the spadework for us. Underneath "With best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year from" it is only necessary for us to write "Jill and Jack", and most people, after doing this several dozen times and still getting only half way down their list, are well content to leave it at that.

An aberrant minority, however, seem unable to resist the temptation to use these missives for purposes of more or less rational intercommunication. The impulse to do so may stem from the desire to steal (as it were) a single from the POSTMASTER-GENERAL, or the writer, gazing down the interminable vista which this year will not really end before Monday, December 28, may have been moved by the same sort of forlorn feelings which cause prisoners to scribble on the walls of their cells. Whatever the cause, quite a number of Christmas cards are inscribed with matter tenuously if at all connected with their primary purpose.

Many of these marginal comments are inane. "How are you all?" for instance, was

if the writer had only stopped to think, a fairly pointless addition to a message of good will. Christmas cards from remote parts of the world sometimes bear items of information ("It's 102 degrees in the shade here!"), behind which, though they are interesting in a way, one suspects the ambition to *épater*.

Within the family or clan it is often deemed permissible to record developments of mutual interest in a kind of stop press; but it may be doubted whether Yuletide cheer is materially increased by inserting among the robins and the holly such legends as "Isn't it awful about Ronnie?" or "We think Antonia has whooping cough. I suppose this means that your will be in quarantine. What a bore!"

Rarer, and even less forgivable, are the unashamedly operational messages which are sometimes included on Christmas cards. "Henry thinks he may have left his gloves in the car. Could you send them back if he has?" or "Do you know anyone who wants an Alsatian puppy (pedigree)?" — it is perfectly all right to make inquiries of this kind, but it is not *comme il faut* to make them on a Christmas card.

They should form, as bureaucrats say, the subject of a separate communication; and it may be laid down as a general rule that anyone who uses a main verb on a Christmas card has almost certainly gone a bit too far.

## The law, the press and Parliament

From Lord Marsh

Sir, The final paragraph of your leading article, "Without apology" (December 15), encapsulates the main case for a review of the law relating to the press. You write:

A newspaper that opposes a government can on occasions try to destroy it. Those occasions will be rare. But they should be there. And there should be no politically appointed panel, however representative or sincere, to hinder or abet that duty.

What "duty"? Journalists, in common with most of us who work for a living, are employed by their newspapers for no other purpose than to provide the owners with an acceptable return on their investment. To suggest that journalists are invested with unique duties, and therefore rights denied to the rest of us, is a dangerous conceit. Dangerous because it is increasingly used as justification for behaviour by journalists under pressure to increase sales which would never be tolerated from any other section of society, including the police or elected parliamentarians.

In the course of my chairmanship of the Newspaper Publishers Association this issue arose, on a number of occasions and each time a minority of council members tried to find some form of effective self-regulation. That they were unsuccessful is painfully obvious, but when *The Times* expresses the view that the press exists to protect "the ruled", i.e. the electorate, from "the rulers", otherwise known as elected members of Parliament, a few chuckles from the ghost of Bob Maxwell are understandable.

I am convinced, as I suspect are many others, that there is now an overwhelming case, in no way connected with the problems of the royal family, for parliamentary action.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD MARSH,  
House of Lords,  
December 17.

## Older mothers

From Dr Adrian R. Rogers

Sir, Libby Purves, in her article on becoming a mother at 40 ("Go forty and multiply", December 14), takes me to task for my view that younger mothers are generally to be preferred.

Older mothers, who are a relatively new and growing social phenomenon, have much to be commended — not least maturity, stability, often greater wealth and a sense of having already achieved in life: it is my personal experience as a family doctor that they make excellent mothers.

However, there are hazards, in addition to the well-known increased risk of foetal abnormality. Illness and death are of course more likely in the fifth and sixth decades, threatening to orphan young or teenage children; and the chance of handing on to the wisdom of life and motherhood to a second generation as a grandmother is considerably lessened.

May such matters of fertility long remain subjects of personal choice and never become subject to fashion or of frustration born out feminism.

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN ROGERS  
(Advisor to Conservative  
Christian Fellowship),  
Crane House, Trews Weir Reach,  
Exeter, Devon.

## At our service

From Mr Christopher C. Gay

The argument (Mr David Kiggell's letter, December 10) that local councils totally funded centrally would compete for service quality may at first sight be attractive. Such "competition", however, presupposes fair and accepted grant distribution, as presumably no one would argue that the needs of the stockbroker belt would be as great as an area of urban deprivation.

Grant distribution has reached a point of such complexity as to be fully understood by only three or four people in the land (the secretary of state for the environment probably not being one of them) and is highly contentious. No government has been able to provide a remotely satisfactory system.

What is needed for the health of our local democracy is locally raised revenue for which local councils are accountable to their electorate — not handouts from government calculated from obscure Whitehall formulas.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER GAY  
(Chief Executive and Town Clerk),  
Canterbury City Council,  
Military Road, Canterbury, Kent.

## Drivers who smoke

From Mr A. J. Haslam

Sir, Dr R. Scott Russell suggests (letter, December 15) that pipe smokers should enjoy reduced motor insurance premiums. Had he been in the car when some ash fell out of my father's pipe, setting fire to his trousers while travelling at high speed on the Doncaster bypass, he might think differently. Only considerable presence of mind averted a disaster.

Yours faithfully,  
A. J. HASLAM,  
The Granary, Green Farm,  
Wark-on-Tyne, Hexham,  
Northumberland,  
December 16.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## A fitting punishment for murder

From Mr John McVicar

Sir, The widow of the policeman murdered by Nicholas Venn, who was also convicted of murdering two other people (report, December 8), did not base her call for restoration of the death penalty on deterrence, as Bernard Levin implies (December 17), but retribution.

Her comments after Venn was sentenced to life imprisonment were: "I know that nothing can ever bring Alan back but no sentence that our courts are allowed to pass could ever be enough. He is alive and my husband is dead."

Levin also claims that the best definition he has come across of madness is doing "that which most people do not do and would never do in any circumstances". I would think that the test applied by the courts is both better and more appropriate to his topic, that is, that the accused's ability to distinguish between right and wrong is impaired.

As for the "mystery" of Venn's savagery, we do not have to look any further than TV reports of events in Bosnia for an explanation. It is easy to dehumanise other human beings.

Venn is what the Americans call "a state-reared youth", who has,

during long periods of incarceration in various institutions, absorbed an intense hatred of authority. To him, policemen are Jews, Muslims, Christians, negroes, gooks... whatever.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN McVICAR,  
75 Albert Palace Mansions,  
Lurline Gardens, SW11,  
December 17.

From Mr Stephen Bush

Sir, In the case of Nicholas Venn, it may well be, as Bernard Levin says, "absurd to think that such a man might be deterred by the thought of the hangman". It is the potential murderer who needs the deterrent and the role of Venn is to provide the awful example.

"Thou shalt not kill" is an instruction to the individual, not society. The abolition of the death penalty is an experiment which has failed us miserably. Look around: murders, rapes and all manner of loathsome brutalities flourish where there is no final authority.

Society must — yes, must — provide the just deserts of convicted killers.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN BUSH,  
26 Cherry Road, Rochester, Kent.

## Economic recovery

From the General Secretary of MSF

Sir, The leap in unemployment figures (report, December 18) underlines how premature those Conservative claims are that the economy is recovering. Technical indicators may well begin to show signs of upturn but, if current policies prevail, it will be years before job creation is significant enough to make even a dent in the huge numbers of unemployed, particularly in London and the South East, which have taken the brunt of failed economic policies.

We must not allow the few "green shoots" as they surface to disguise the reality of what is necessary to secure real recovery. We must concentrate on policies which lead directly to the recreation of our wealth-producing manufacturing sector. We must give incentives to those who are able to develop the new technologies which can improve our productive abilities.

## Bores? Not in my book

From Mr Tom Brimelow

Sir, I have always been puzzled by the professional librarian's public image, and Alison Roberts's review of *Drôles de Bibliothèques* ("More than bodies in the library", December 10) just adds to the mystery. Traditionally, librarians are bookish, impractical, out of touch, ineffectual, officious creatures; yet, according to the authors, librarians in literature show that they display all human characteristics, good and bad. Why, then, the image of boring people?

My experience in teaching librarians at Leeds Polytechnic over 23 years was that they were livelier than other students. Their contribution to student societies, politics and functions far outweighed their numbers. At least two girls were elected Rag Queen.

Librarianship has always been in the forefront of technical innovation. Self-service and checkouts came in decades before the grocery trade caught on and we were teaching

computer principles in the early 1950s. Whence the fuddy-duddy?

Yours faithfully,  
TOM BRIMELOW,  
38a Field End Gardens,  
Hailton, Leeds, West Yorkshire,  
December 11.

From Miss Margaret Birkinshaw

Sir, I was dismayed by the inference in Alison Roberts's article, that Barbara Pym is a writer of pulp romance. Barbara Pym is a renowned writer of style, wit and distinction, whose wilderness years were ended when she won praise in *The Times Literary Supplement* from Lord David Cecil and Philip Larkin, and whose books have met with high critical acclaim. Ms Roberts's slighting and inaccurate reference to the plot of *An Unsuitable Attachment* does much disservice to a writer whose work has been compared to that of Jane Austen.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET BIRKINSHAW,  
87 Barrow Point Avenue,  
Pinner, Middlesex,  
December 11.

## The Nuba people

From the Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan

Sir, I find the letter of Mr Robin Hanbury-Tenison and others (December 9) misleading. Recent tours of the area of the Nuba mountains by leaders of the Catholic Church in Sudan, led by Bishop Khamis Korkel and by a special UN representative, Dr Francis Deng, have conclusively established that there is no truth whatsoever in reports of unfair treatment of the Nuba people or any attempts to displace them. The government is spending hundreds of millions of pounds to rehabilitate this war-devastated area.

At no time did the government at regional or national level institute a policy of separating women and children from their families or sending men to forced labour. The moving of a few thousand people outside the war zone was a temporary measure dictated purely by humanitarian considerations. Freedom of movement for all individuals is guaranteed, and most people in the area have returned to their original areas now that they felt it safe to do so.

The Sudanese people are proud to have hosted over a million refugees from neighbouring countries who share our meagre resources. Over three million displaced people from the south are settled all over the north, where they receive education equal to and health care superior to that offered to the permanently settled people.

Yours etc.,  
ALI MOHAMED OSMAN  
YASSIN,  
Sudan Embassy,  
3 Cleveland Row, St James's, SW1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

## Europe's uranium and nuclear waste

From Mrs Jessica Larive, MEP  
(The Netherlands) (Liberal and Democratic Reforms), and Mr Madron Seligman, MEP for West Sussex (European People's Party) (Conservative)

Sir, The Euratom Supply Agency was set up in 1957 to purchase uranium, then scarce, for all users in the European Community. The agency is now using its monopoly powers to block uranium imports from the former Soviet Union.

It does so on the grounds that the uranium is too cheap and threatens the stability of the EC's regular supplies and suppliers. Such anti-competitive activity keeps the price of nuclear-generated electricity high, and needlessly raises industrial costs.

The political implications of this behaviour are serious. It defies the EC policy of trading with ex-communist countries desperate for hard currency. Worse, if we close our markets to this uranium it will be diverted to less responsible buyers. This is particularly perverse, considering that only last month the European Parliament approved the Community plan to set up a Centre for Science and Research in Moscow with the express purpose of preventing the dispersal of the former USSR's nuclear and chemical scientists.

In protecting a single industrial sector, the agency is acting far beyond the intent and letter of the Euratom treaty. We hope the agency's operations will be closely questioned.

Yours faithfully,  
JESSICA LARIVE,  
MADRON SELIGMAN,  
European Parliament,  
Rue Belliard 9-10/17, Brussels,  
December 15.

From the Executive Director of Greenpeace International

Sir, Your report that the British government is carrying out a Cabinet-level enquiry into Thorp, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd's thermal oxide reprocessing plant ("Enquiry underlines doubts over future of Sellafield plant", December 16) is an encouraging sign that the government is starting to recognise that the original justifications for Thorp no longer apply.

Britain is not alone. Germany, Japan, Belgium and Switzerland are reconsidering the rationale for plutonium production and use. Former Thorp customer Sweden now has a no-reprocessing policy. The US Defense Department restated recently that the proliferation risks from reprocessing are unacceptable even with existing international safeguards.

As the British government debates the opening of Thorp, governments around the world will be watching. It can only be hoped that the UK recognises that it cannot afford — for security, economic or environmental reasons — to open Thorp.

Yours faithfully,  
STEVE SAWYER, Executive Director, Greenpeace International, Kerkstraat 176, 1016 DW Amsterdam, December 17.

## Commercial disputes

From Mr David Steel, QC

Sir, As a result of the critical shortage of judicial manpower (report, November 23) the Commercial Court list is in complete disarray. The court's reputation, which has taken so long to establish, is quickly being lost, with serious repercussions for the City of London.

It is now time for the City institutions to establish their own commercial dispute resolution centre.

With purpose-made procedures and accommodation, and with judicial manpower taken from solicitors and barristers practising in the commercial field, acting either part or full-time (and perhaps also some present and past Commercial Court judges), the City institutions are equipped to offer adjudication, conciliation and mediation services unmatched in the world. With a sensible fee structure, there would be no burden on the public purse.

This is the only way forward to ensure that commercial interests are freed from competing for judicial resources urgently needed elsewhere. There is no time to lose.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID STEEL,  
2 Essex Court, Temple, E.C.4,  
December 10.

## Wheel of fortune

From Mr Anthony D. R. Holland

Sir, Any appointment of the managing director of London Underground to head the Prison Service (letter, December 17) would follow precedent established by the Home Office.

Sir Stanley Raymond, chairman of the British Railways Board, was appointed in 1968 to run the newly formed Gaming Board. It was widely assumed, at the time, that the Home Office were confused in their translation of *chemin de fer*.

In the event, the appointment was a success.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY HOLLAND,  
Windsor Manor,  
Windsor, Surrey.











## Concise Crossword, page 32





## CRICKET 19

Nothing is left to chance on the passage to India



## ARTS 25

Kenneth Branagh  
A Prince of a Hamlet



## BUSINESS 28-32

All Lord King  
of BA wants  
for Christmas ...

Television  
and  
radio  
Page 31

# THE TIMES

# 2

MONDAY DECEMBER 21 1992

Open champion repels Australian challenge to take world title in sudden-death finish

## Faldo repels Norman's conquest

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN MONTEGO BAY

NICK Faldo yesterday completed another enthralling chapter in his astonishing career when he won the Johnnie Walker world championship following a pulsating sudden-death finish at the Tryall Course.

Faldo began the final round with a five-shot lead, but he found it anything other than a stroll in the Caribbean sun as the Australian Greg Norman launched a gallant charge.

Indeed, Norman walked off the 14th green one in front and he appeared to have the championship in his grasp until a dramatic twist of fortune on the 18th green.

There Faldo charged a putt of 16 feet into the hole for a birdie and a round of 68, and Norman contrived to miss from little more than three feet for a course record-breaking round of 63 and a total of 274, six under par.

Norman hit his second shot at the first extra hole into a fluffy lie from where he was unable to get up and down, and Faldo's cast-iron four gave him the title.

"It was do or die at the 18th," Faldo said. "I thought Greg would hold his putt but I also thought 'what the hell — go and knock your one in'. I was fortunate to have a five-shot lead. I couldn't do anything against him — he could have shot 60 — but I just tried to remain positive."

Faldo's sixth victory of the year gave him a new record of £1,558,978 for worldwide earnings in 1992. He also broke with a total of £1,225,348, the existing record for winnings in one year from events sanctioned by the PGA European Tour.

Norman knew that he would have to make an early move to disturb Faldo's equilibrium, and might have done so by holing from 15 feet for a birdie at the 1st to cut Faldo's lead to four. But Faldo responded by holing from 12 feet for a birdie at the 2nd.

Norman holed from ten feet for a two at the 3rd and he reached the green with a driver and a three-wood for a another birdie at the 4th after Faldo had been unable to get up in two. Faldo must have been confident that he had increased his lead from three shots to four when he holed from 25 feet for a birdie at the

7th, but Norman followed him in from 20 feet. Faldo, however, looked more concerned when he failed to hole for birdies from eight feet and ten feet at the 8th and 9th.

Norman maintained his momentum with a wonderful recovery at the 10th. He drove into a gully, where he found himself blocked out by a tree. His second shot finished right of the green between a bunker and the out-of-bounds fence, but he played an adroit chip to two feet.

The Australian was outdriven at the 11th, but he struck a lovely eight-iron shot to four feet from where he holed for a birdie. Faldo left a 12-foot birdie putt woefully short at the 12th, and he missed again at the 13th, where Norman made a two by holing from 15 feet.

Norman drove at the 14th tee only one shot behind, and he walked off the green one shot ahead. Faldo fired his drive right, found his ball in an unplayable lie amongst the palm trees and finished with a six. Norman hit his metal wood second shot just short, chipped to 20 inches and holed for a four.

Norman wobbled at the short 15th, played alongside the edge of the Ocean, where changed clubs and went over the green. However, he showed his mettle by splashing out to three feet for his par. Faldo looked dejected when he missed a birdie chance from six feet at the 16th, and the tide seemed to be turning finally in Norman's favour when Faldo missed another birdie chance from a similar distance.

An afternoon of high drama was, however, far from over. Norman drove into a bunker at the 18th. Faldo followed a safe tee shot with an approach to 15 feet behind the hole. Norman hit a wonderful shot from the sand which left the ball less than four feet from the cup. Faldo applied the pressure by holing, and Norman dramatically missed.

Tom Kite, the US Open champion recovered from a bad start to finish with a 70 for a share of third place with Davis Love III (66) on 283. Ian Woosnam had a birdie at the 18th for a 68 and a total of 284 to beat Mark Roe (70) by one shot for fifth place.



Driving to glory: Faldo launches into his tee shot on the 2nd hole in the Montego Bay sun yesterday

FALDO'S RECORD IN 1992			
Asian Classic	71, 67, 72, 67	-11	20th
Desert Classic	70, 66, 69, 68	-12	5th
Honda Classic	69, 74, 65, 71	-9	17th
Norfolk Championship	72, 77	+5	MC
Players' Championship	69, 68, 67, 74	-11	2nd
Proquest-Malcolm Classic	74, 69, 69, 69	-7	6th
US Masters	71, 72, 68, 71	-8	13th
Wendell-Smith Classic	71, 72, 70, 69	-11	1st
B & H International	70, 72, 68, 69	-10	2nd
Spanish Open	70, 68, 69, 70	-11	8th
Volvo PGA	69, 68, 69, 67	-10	4th
Dunhill Masters	68, 68, 68, 73	-14	1st
Irish Open	70, 76, 68, 77	+3	3rd
US Open	71, 70, 65, 74	-15	3rd
French Open	68, 62, 68, 65	-12	1st
Scottish Open	66, 64, 69, 73	-11	1st
The Open	70, 72, 68, 69	-3	2nd
Scandinavian Masters	67, 66, 64, 65	-18	1st
US PGA	70, 74, 66, 67	-9	2nd
European Open	69, 67, 68, 74	-5	40th
Lancome Trophy	71, 70, 71, 71	+5	40th
Wendell-Smith	71, 70, 71, 71	+5	40th
Volvo Masters	72, 71	-1	6th
PGA Grand Slam			
South African Skins			
Million Dollar Challenge	68, 72, 72, 69	-6	1st
European Tour — other events			
World Championship	71, 70, 65, 68	-6	1st
Total			£1,558,978

## Divisional games confound the critics

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union's ADT divisional championship, which has as many detractors as it has friends, has proved its value this season. It not only reached a splendid climax at Leicester on Saturday, where the South and South-West clinched the championship for the first time with an 18-18 draw against the Midlands, but it has confirmed the depth of talent in English rugby.

To judge the championship merely on players receiving caps in the five nations' championship which follows is short-sighted. Selectors may pick with greater confidence their reserve squads for the A-

international programme and tour squads such as the party of 30 England will send to North America in May.

Whether the selectors were right to announce their senior training squad for Llanzarote before the conclusion of the championship is open to question. Indeed Stuart Barnes, captain of the victorious South-West, did. "All the players had been carded anyway about their availability so the time factor is not that relevant and the decision seems strange if these games are to count," Barnes said.

Barnes was also critical of leading players who did not make themselves available for the championship, a reference to Will Carling and



Barnes speaking out

Peter Winterbottom. Carling, England's captain, was on holiday in the Far East for the first fortnight of December and Winterbottom preferred to train. "You have to

ask the question about the absence of some players, which doesn't help with the motivation for young players coming through the ranks." Barnes said. Rob Andrew — with 50 caps — has been a positive supporter of the divisional championship and when so many other England players have taken part it is important that the England captain sets an equivalent example. Barnes does not believe that the divisional games offer a higher standard than that of first division club rugby. "It doesn't have the qualities you get from top first division teams and I still don't believe it's a step up."

South-West win, page 20

## Smith to play from start despite his broken toe

KEITH Fletcher, the England manager, said yesterday he was confident that Robin Smith would not miss any early cricket on the tour of India after breaking a toe. The England party leaves for Delhi next Monday, with the first match starting on January 3.

Fletcher dismissed fears that Smith, whose big toe was hit by a ball from Chris Lewis during practice at Lilleshall last week, would put him out of action for the first three weeks of the tour.

"It's just a little hiccup," Fletcher said. "He could play next week if we needed him to — and I am certainly expecting him to be ready for our first match in India."

There has been adverse reaction in Pakistan to the appointment of Tom Graveney, the former England batsman, by the International Cricket Council as a match referee. Graveney, 65, has been chosen to take charge of disciplinary matters during the Test and one-day series between West Indies and Pakistan in March and April. But newspapers in Karachi and Lahore have recalled his comment five years ago when he supported Mike Gatting, the then England captain, after his row with Shakoor Rana, the umpire. "They have been cheating us for 37 years and it is just getting worse and worse," Graveney said in 1987. Pakistan have made no official complaint about Graveney's appointment.

## Omens are bad as Forest let more points slip

Nottingham Forest..... 1  
Wimbledon..... 1

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE fact that Wimbledon could, for the most part, match the quality of Nottingham Forest's football spoke volumes yesterday for the problems besetting the Premier League's bottom club. Forest badly required a win to cut the gap at the foot of the table to a single point, but slipped up again at the City Ground, where they have now failed to win eight times this season.

Brian Clough's side is now facing the very real fear of relegation, a prospect hitherto regarded as improbable, for all their lack of points.

Without a seasoned goal-scorer, a commanding goalkeeper or much sign of rapport in central defence, Forest are struggling worse than their esteemed manager might care to admit. His son lifted their spirits with a fifth-minute goal only to make the mistake soon after which led indirectly to Wimbledon's equaliser.

Sensing the kill, Wimbledon then went for the jugular, no one more so than Jones, who did his utmost to goad Pearce. There cannot be many other footballers in the Premier League with such tenacity and Jones was in no way prepared to accept second best following the Trent End's chant of "Psycho is harder than Vinnie". To his utmost credit, however, Jones also provided some deft touches, one of which led to his side's goal.

Forest had gone ahead after Joseph had sold Scales short on the halfway line. Black intercepted his pass to send Nigel Clough racing through to clip the ball past the advancing Segers.

The pitch, still bearing traces of a heavy overnight frost, probably contributed to Wimbledon's swift reply. From Clough's wayward pass near the centre circle in the twelfth minute, Jones swept the ball

TABLE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Nottingham Forest	19	12	3	4	34	32	38			
Wimbledon	20	9	8	3	31	21	25			
Blackburn	20	9	7	4	30	17	34			
Man Utd	20	9	7	4	32	14	34			
Chelsea	20	8	8	5	27	17	30			
Arsenal	20	9	3	8	32	24	30			
Sheff Wed	19	8	11	2	27	13	29			
Coventry	20	7	8	5	30	27	29			
QPR	20	8	5	7	26	23	29			
Liverpool	20	8	4	8	34	32	28			
Man City	20	7	5	8	27	23	26			
M'burgh	20	6	8	6	31	30	26			
Tottenham	20	8	7	5	20	26	25			
Leeds	20	6	6	8	32	34	24			
Sheff Wed	20	8	7	5	26	23	29			
Soton	20	8	7	5	29	23	28			
Everton	20	6	4	10	17	24	22			
Clough	20	8	5	7	33	28	21			
C Palace	20	4	7	13	26	33	21			
Sheff Utd	20	6	6	8	18	26	21			
Wimbledon	20	4	5	11	19	31	19			
Nottingham	20	3	6	11	19	31	15			

diagonally forward. Crossley came sliding out of his goal and, carried forward by his own momentum, lost the ball in his attempt to keep it away from Clarke. From an acute angle, the Wimbledon winger found the far corner.

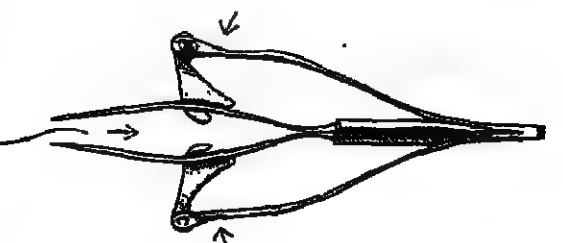
The blamish did nothing for Crossley's confidence and unnerved by the strength of Wimbledon's response, Forest almost disintegrated. Their jitters in defence were more than evident when Charlie belted the ball against Tyler, leaving Clarke to race free to attempt an unsuccessful shot. When Tyler later kicked air instead of a centre from Fashanu, who had replaced the injured Clarke, Crossley redeemed himself, twisting smartly in mid-air to keep out Earle's job.

With Talboys having a competent second game at the ripe old age of 26 in midfield against Keane, who was almost anonymous, Wimbledon thoroughly deserved to hold out when Forest stirred themselves into a late rally, which did not amount to much by their own previously high standards.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Crossley; B. Laws; S. Pearce; S. Christie; C. Tyler; R. Keane; G. Crossley; B. Gernon; N. Cowie; N. West; K. Black.  
WIMBLEDON: H. Segers; N. Arley; J. Taylor; M. Jones; V. Jones; J. Taylor; S. Christie; S. Christie; D. Blackwell; R. Earle; D. Holdsworth; S. Talboys; A. Clarke (sub: J. Fashanu).  
Referee: R. A. Hart

# RIGHT.

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## Whitaker finishes seventh in World Cup show jumping qualifier

## Beerbaum's charge puts him clear in standings

By Jenny MacArthur

THE run of bad results by British riders in the Volvo World Cup qualifying competitions this year continued at Olympia on Saturday when the favourite, John Whitaker, on Everest Milton, finished only seventh but was the highest placed of the 12 Britons in the class.

Ludger Beerbaum, of Germany, the Olympic individual gold medal-winner, won the qualifier — the ninth out of 14 — on Almox Raina by the decisive margin of 3.35 seconds. The 29-year-old German started riding Raina, the winner of the silver medal in Barcelona with the Dutchman, Piet Reymakers, only in September.

Beerbaum now heads the western European league for the World Cup, from which the leading 19 riders qualify for the final in Sweden in April. Unusually, there are no British riders in the top 20 John Whitaker, the winner of the Cup in 1990 and 1991, is the highest placed, lying joint 21st.

Whitaker and Everest Milton, who have won more than £100,000 on the Continent since September, had looked set to justify their status as favourites. But, first to go in the 12-horse jump-off, the 15-year-old Milton hit the first fence.

Whitaker thought Milton had been momentarily distracted by the starter's red flag. When the second horse also failed at the first fence, the starter was moved farther away.

That was not the only criticism of the jump-off procedure. Franke Sloothaak, of Germany, who was sixth on Gina Ginelli, described the

twisty course as "terrible — there was not one normal smooth line". Nick Skelton, the British rider who was eighth on Limited Edition, was also critical.

Happily for Beerbaum, it was perfect for the athletic Raina. Alexander Moksle, Beerbaum's employer, bought the ten-year-old mare for Beerbaum as a replacement for the German's Olympic horse, Classic Touch, who was being taken over by Ralf Schneider, the son of the horse's owner.

"It was a funny sort of jump-off," Beerbaum said, "but it was an advantage for me because Raina can jump from anywhere." Peter Charles, of Ireland, who was runner-up on Royal Chocolate and the third-placed Thomas Fruhmann, of Austria, on Bockmann's Genius, had a more difficult time. "Riding Royal Chocolate to the third fence was like driving an articulated bus," Charles, now fourth in the league standings, said.

Skelton, who has been second five times this week, dominated the show yesterday afternoon. He won the opening Everest Christmas Knock-out on Everest Florida and was then joint winner, with Sloothaak, of the Six-Bar competition, in which the final fence stood at 6ft 3in.

RESULTS: Volvo World Cup qualifier: 1, Almox Raina (L. Beerbaum, Ger.), 0 in 32.75sec; 2, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 0 in 38.13; 3, Bockmann's Genius (T. Fruhmann, Aus.), 0 in 38.78; 4, Classic Touch (R. Schneider, Ger.), 0 in 39.12; 5, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 0 in 39.12; 6, Gina Ginelli (F. Sloothaak, Ger.), 0 in 39.12; 7, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 0 in 39.12; 8, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 0 in 39.12; 9, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 0 in 39.12; 10, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 0 in 39.12; 11, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 0 in 39.12; 12, Royal Chocolate (P. Charles, Ire.), 0 in 39.12.



Gift horse: Skelton, on Everest Florida, wins the Christmas Knock-out yesterday

## YACHTING

## Relief voyage has to be delayed

YESTERDAY brought more bad news for the hapless crew on British Steel II, the round-the-world yacht dismasted deep in the Southern Ocean last week, midway between Cape Horn and New Zealand.

The P & O ship NZ Pacific, which was due to rendezvous with the stricken yacht today and provide Richard Tudor and his crew with the 1,000 litres of fuel they need to motor to Auckland, is still in port undergoing repairs and is

unlikely to sail before Wednesday. Chay Blyth and his organising team have spent the weekend searching for an alternative.

The crew have set up a jury rig, using the spinnaker poles and boom, but with the winds blowing up to 25 knots from the north-west this improvisation is adding merely to a steady sail.

Iain MacGillivray and his crew on Pride of Teesside, whose radar went on the blink

last week, had a further scare yesterday when they heard a loud bang. The fear was of another bottlescrew failure — or worse — but mercifully the only damage was a broken main halyard.

LEADING POSITIONS at 1800 GMT yesterday, with miles to go: 1, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,238 miles; 2, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,237; 3, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,236; 4, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,235; 5, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,234; 6, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,233; 7, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,232; 8, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,231; 9, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,230; 10, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,229; 11, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,228; 12, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,227; 13, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,226; 14, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,225; 15, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,224; 16, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,223; 17, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,222; 18, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,221; 19, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,220; 20, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,219; 21, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,218; 22, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,217; 23, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,216; 24, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,215; 25, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,214; 26, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,213; 27, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,212; 28, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,211; 29, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,210; 30, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,209; 31, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,208; 32, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,207; 33, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,206; 34, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,205; 35, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,204; 36, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,203; 37, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,202; 38, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,201; 39, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,200; 40, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,199; 41, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,198; 42, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,197; 43, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,196; 44, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,195; 45, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,194; 46, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,193; 47, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,192; 48, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,191; 49, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,190; 50, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,189; 51, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,188; 52, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,187; 53, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,186; 54, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,185; 55, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,184; 56, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,183; 57, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,182; 58, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,181; 59, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,180; 60, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,179; 61, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,178; 62, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,177; 63, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,176; 64, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,175; 65, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,174; 66, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,173; 67, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,172; 68, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,171; 69, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,170; 70, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,169; 71, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,168; 72, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,167; 73, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,166; 74, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,165; 75, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,164; 76, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,163; 77, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,162; 78, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,161; 79, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,160; 80, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,159; 81, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,158; 82, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,157; 83, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,156; 84, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,155; 85, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,154; 86, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,153; 87, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,152; 88, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,151; 89, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,150; 90, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,149; 91, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,148; 92, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,147; 93, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,146; 94, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,145; 95, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,144; 96, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,143; 97, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,142; 98, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,141; 99, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,140; 100, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,139; 101, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,138; 102, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,137; 103, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,136; 104, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,135; 105, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,134; 106, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,133; 107, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,132; 108, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,131; 109, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,130; 110, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,129; 111, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,128; 112, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,127; 113, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,126; 114, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,125; 115, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,124; 116, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,123; 117, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,122; 118, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,121; 119, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,120; 120, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,119; 121, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,118; 122, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,117; 123, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,116; 124, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,115; 125, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,114; 126, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,113; 127, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,112; 128, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,111; 129, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,110; 130, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,109; 131, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,108; 132, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,107; 133, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,106; 134, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,105; 135, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,104; 136, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,103; 137, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,102; 138, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,101; 139, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,100; 140, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,099; 141, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,098; 142, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,097; 143, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,096; 144, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,095; 145, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,094; 146, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,093; 147, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,092; 148, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,091; 149, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,090; 150, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,089; 151, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,088; 152, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,087; 153, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,086; 154, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,085; 155, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,084; 156, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,083; 157, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,082; 158, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,081; 159, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,080; 160, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,079; 161, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,078; 162, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,077; 163, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,076; 164, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,075; 165, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,074; 166, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,073; 167, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,072; 168, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,071; 169, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,070; 170, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,069; 171, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,068; 172, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,067; 173, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,066; 174, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,065; 175, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,064; 176, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,063; 177, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,062; 178, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,061; 179, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,060; 180, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,059; 181, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,058; 182, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,057; 183, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,056; 184, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,055; 185, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,054; 186, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,053; 187, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,052; 188, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,051; 189, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,050; 190, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,049; 191, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,048; 192, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,047; 193, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,046; 194, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,045; 195, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,044; 196, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,043; 197, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,042; 198, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,041; 199, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,040; 200, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,039; 201, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,038; 202, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,037; 203, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,036; 204, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,035; 205, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,034; 206, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,033; 207, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,032; 208, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,031; 209, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,030; 210, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,029; 211, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,028; 212, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,027; 213, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,026; 214, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,025; 215, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,024; 216, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,023; 217, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,022; 218, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,021; 219, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,020; 220, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,019; 221, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,018; 222, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,017; 223, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,016; 224, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,015; 225, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,014; 226, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,013; 227, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,012; 228, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,011; 229, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,010; 230, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,009; 231, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,008; 232, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,007; 233, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,006; 234, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,005; 235, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,004; 236, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,003; 237, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,002; 238, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 2,001; 239, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 2,000; 240, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,999; 241, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,998; 242, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,997; 243, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,996; 244, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,995; 245, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,994; 246, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,993; 247, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,992; 248, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,991; 249, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,990; 250, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,989; 251, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,988; 252, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,987; 253, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,986; 254, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,985; 255, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,984; 256, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,983; 257, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,982; 258, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,981; 259, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,980; 260, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,979; 261, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,978; 262, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,977; 263, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,976; 264, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,975; 265, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,974; 266, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,973; 267, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,972; 268, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,971; 269, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,970; 270, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,969; 271, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,968; 272, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,967; 273, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,966; 274, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,965; 275, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,964; 276, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,963; 277, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,962; 278, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,961; 279, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,960; 280, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,959; 281, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,958; 282, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,957; 283, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,956; 284, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,955; 285, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,954; 286, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,953; 287, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,952; 288, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,951; 289, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,950; 290, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,949; 291, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,948; 292, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,947; 293, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,946; 294, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,945; 295, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,944; 296, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,943; 297, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,942; 298, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,941; 299, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,940; 300, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,939; 301, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,938; 302, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,937; 303, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,936; 304, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,935; 305, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,934; 306, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,933; 307, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,932; 308, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,931; 309, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,930; 310, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,929; 311, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,928; 312, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,927; 313, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,926; 314, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,925; 315, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,924; 316, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,923; 317, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,922; 318, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,921; 319, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,920; 320, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,919; 321, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,918; 322, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,917; 323, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,916; 324, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,915; 325, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,914; 326, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,913; 327, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,912; 328, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,911; 329, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,910; 330, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,909; 331, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,908; 332, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,907; 333, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,906; 334, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,905; 335, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,904; 336, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,903; 337, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,902; 338, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,901; 339, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,900; 340, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,899; 341, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,898; 342, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,897; 343, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,896; 344, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,895; 345, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,894; 346, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,893; 347, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,892; 348, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,891; 349, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,890; 350, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,889; 351, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,888; 352, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,887; 353, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,886; 354, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,885; 355, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,884; 356, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,883; 357, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,882; 358, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,881; 359, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,880; 360, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,879; 361, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,878; 362, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,877; 363, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,876; 364, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,875; 365, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,874; 366, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,873; 367, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,872; 368, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,871; 369, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,870; 370, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,869; 371, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,868; 372, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,867; 373, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,866; 374, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,865; 375, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,864; 376, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,863; 377, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,862; 378, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,861; 379, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,860; 380, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,859; 381, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,858; 382, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,857; 383, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,856; 384, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,855; 385, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,854; 386, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,853; 387, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,852; 388, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,851; 389, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,850; 390, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,849; 391, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,848; 392, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,847; 393, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,846; 394, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,845; 395, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,844; 396, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,843; 397, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,842; 398, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,841; 399, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,840; 400, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,839; 401, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,838; 402, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,837; 403, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,836; 404, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,835; 405, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,834; 406, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,833; 407, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,832; 408, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,831; 409, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,830; 410, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,829; 411, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,828; 412, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,827; 413, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,826; 414, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,825; 415, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,824; 416, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,823; 417, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,822; 418, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,821; 419, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,820; 420, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,819; 421, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,818; 422, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,817; 423, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,816; 424, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,815; 425, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,814; 426, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,813; 427, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,812; 428, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,811; 429, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,810; 430, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,809; 431, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,808; 432, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,807; 433, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,806; 434, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,805; 435, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,804; 436, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,803; 437, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,802; 438, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,801; 439, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,800; 440, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,799; 441, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,798; 442, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,797; 443, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,796; 444, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,795; 445, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,794; 446, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,793; 447, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,792; 448, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,791; 449, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,790; 450, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,789; 451, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,788; 452, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,787; 453, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,786; 454, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,785; 455, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,784; 456, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,783; 457, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,782; 458, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,781; 459, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,780; 460, Commercial Union (M. Wetherby), 1,779; 461, Huelo Bodo (J. Chatterton), 1,778; 462, Commercial Union











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# Cantona serves United a measure of seasonal cheer



Cantona: equalised

Chelsea ..... 1  
Manchester United ..... 1

By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SINCE defensive efficiency is supposed to be the foundation of potential champions, the credentials of two prime candidates were joyously paraded at a rain-swept Stamford Bridge on Saturday. Not even Scrooge would have dared to arrange an afternoon so miserably short of seasonal generosity.

In front of Chelsea's biggest crowd of the season, generating record receipts of

£385,000, the attacking adventure was so limited that the shots on target amounted to two. Both at least counted but Alex Ferguson, Manchester United's manager, suggested sarcastically "that will make for a merry Christmas".

Ian Porterfield was significantly less despondent. He is not alone in sensing that Chelsea, without a significant honour for two decades, could be about to emerge from their lean years. The necessary solid basis has been built and signs of progress are evident, on and off the pitch.

Last week their existence at Stamford Bridge, which has

for so long been uncertain, was secured for 20 years.

Porterfield recalled that United won 3-1 at Stamford Bridge last December, a victory which lifted them to the top of the table. "They were so much better than us then," he said, "but I don't think anyone could argue that today."

The improvement over the last 12 months may have been marked but their superiority on this occasion was marginal. Although Fleck operated on his own up front, Chelsea persisted in playing as though Harford was with him, instead of on the bench. The aerial approach was predictably futile.

The effervescent Wise, deployed in a central midfield role, caught the eye but the most telling contribution was made by Lee. Apart from putting Chelsea ahead, immediately after Harford's introduction midway through the second half, with a long-range drive which veered in off Bruce's thigh, he demonstrated a rare commodity.

The 23-year-old is an English central defender who is superbly comfortable on the ball. Unlike Sinclair, his partner and another student to have graduated through the productive youth policy, his distribution is invariably impeccable. It is no surprise to

learn that the idol of the former Under-21 international was Hoddle.

A back four marshalled by Lee and protected by Newton, yet another promising youngster, was penetrated only when Sharpe whipped in a menacing cross, and refreshed a memory. Before a series of injuries interrupted his career, he was being groomed to succeed Barnes in the England line-up.

Ferguson believes that the enforced lay-off has, in one sense, benefited Sharpe, who has had two hernia operations and viral meningitis. "Watching the game has helped him," United's manager said. "And he now has a knowledge that surprises me. He is a better player now than when he was capped, almost two years ago."

Sharpe acknowledged that whereas he used to think that a cross was authentic only if he had beaten the opposing full back, he is not "fussed about that now". The speed of his delivery, as much as his precision, allowed Phelan to nod the ball conveniently down for Cantona.

Sharpe, a mere half a dozen games into his comeback, states he is only "a goal away" from completing his recovery. "I am desperate to score," he said, expressing an emotion

shared by most of his colleagues.

Not Cantona, though. The French maverick, after demonstrating his full repertoire of decorative, but largely ineffective, flicks and back-heels, hooked in the one chance that came his way. Ferguson is convinced that Cantona won the title for Leeds United last season and has invested £1 million in the hope that he might repeat the feat for his new employers.

Chelsea: K. Hodge, G. Hail, F. Sinclair, A. Townsend, G. Lee, M. Donohy, G. Lee, E. Newton, D. Wise. Manchester United: P. Schmeichel, P. Parker, D. Brown, M. Phelan (sub: A. Carruthers), G. Pallister, E. Cantona, P. Jones, B. McGee, M. Hughes, L. Sharpe. Referee: R. Lines.

## Revitalised Palace prove they are pushovers no more

Crystal Palace ..... 1  
Leeds United ..... 0

By PETER ROBINSON

A DRUBBING at Anfield is an unlikely platform for any revival but, for Crystal Palace, a 5-0 defeat by Liverpool seems to have been exactly what they needed. Since their mauling on Merseyside last month, Palace have run into the kind of form that is lifting them out of trouble at the foot of the Premier League.

Leeds United yesterday became the latest team to find that Palace are pushovers no more. A single Andy Thorn goal, a defensive display of rare obduracy and a refusal to let Leeds have their own way at any stage combined to earn Palace their third league win in succession. A month ago, few would have believed such a transformation was possible. It needed the recommitment that followed their debacle in Liverpool to effect the change. As Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, admitted, fingers were pointed and hard words spoken after that match.

"After the 9-0 defeat we had up there a while back, we tightened everything up and got better," he said. "I didn't think we could get beaten as emphatically again but we

did. Everybody realised what it meant to be in the Premier League and what it would mean if we lost it."

Thus, the Palace who tried to manfully entertain at the start of the season was buried to be replaced by the more miserly model that took the field yesterday. Home fixture it may have been but they lined up with the deepest of sweepers, and just a lone, lonely forward, and challenged Leeds to do something about it.

The league champions rarely looked capable of success in that department. Little wonder they have yet to win away from Elland Road this season. They looked sluggish and disinterested in the first half, more energetic but not much more effective in the second.

As is traditional at Selhurst Park these days, the goal came from a set-piece — a trip by Newsome on Rodger giving Palace a free kick on the edge of the area on the half hour. Rodger lifted it into the area and then met Whyte's clearance with a second cross, which Thomas won in the air to present Thorn with the chance to loop a header in off the underside of the bar.

It was no more than Palace deserved. With McGoldrick assured as the sweeper and Armstrong willing and ever-

dangerous on his own up front, they were, in a dour and conservative way, impressive. Leeds were not.

The champions did press forward a bit more after half-time but, against a packed defence, chances were few and far between. The promptings of Strachan and McAllister met no reward against a rearguard that stood rock-solid firm. The best of the occasional openings fell to Varadi in the dying minutes but he missed from close range.

The contrast in the manager's moods after the final whistle said everything about what had gone before. Coppell was bubbly, simply happy to accept a change in fortunes that has breathed life into his ailing season.

Howard Wilkinson, his opposite number, looked horribly haunted. He said he felt that Leeds deserved at least a point from the afternoon: his expression said something markedly different. You felt as if you were intruding on some private grief.

CRYSTAL PALACE: N. Marley, J. Humphrey, R. Shaw, G. Southgate (sub: R. Brown), E. Young, A. Thorn, S. Osborn, G. Thomas, C. Armstrong, S. Rodger, McGoldrick. LEEDS UNITED: J. Lukic, J. Newsome, A. Dorey, D. Fitts, G. Farnham, C. Whyte (sub: S. Hodge), G. Strachan, Rod Wallace (sub: J. Varadi), L. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Speed. Referee: A. Gurn.



Head start: Armstrong, the Crystal Palace forward, displays unorthodox control as he outpaces Fairclough yesterday

## Villa miss chance to press title claims

Manchester City ..... 1  
Aston Villa ..... 1

By IAN ROSS

ON THE evidence of a performance from Aston Villa at Maine Road on Saturday that lacked character and was often naive in a tactical sense, it would be difficult to concede that they are likely winners of the Premier League in its inaugural season. Manchester City could even count themselves unlikely not to have emerged with victory.

But for the benevolence of a linesman and the resilience of McGrath and Teale, at the heart of a tiring, overworked defence, during the final minutes, Villa could have been comfortably defeated.

However, it is the manner in which his team squandered its chances that will concern Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager. With Saunders contributing little and Dalian Atkinson's normally prodigious input reduced by injury, the visitors were presented with a difficult task.

They must have been grateful, then, for the leniency they were allowed by the officials in the 35th minute, when Parker's splendid goal from 20 yards was allowed to stand despite the fact that Atkinson, during the build-up and execution, was offside.

That Villa failed to defend their advantage was surprising. City's play of dispatching the ball forward at great speed, and with little thought, in the hope of finding Quinn has now lost its effectiveness. Similarly, the threat posed by the pace and power of White is often diffused if defenders ensure that he is diverted down a blind alley.

For a team that places such great store by route one, City's forwards demanded an interminable amount of time on the occasions they succeeded in breaching Villa's defence. Filcrot, an emerging talent, was the exception, for he reacted instinctively to head in Brightwell's cross in the 58th minute to level the scores.

It was a fitting reward for City's aggressive posturing and a wholly predictable punishment for Villa's mystifying lack of adventure.

MANCHESTER CITY: A. Cotter, I. Brightwell, T. Fother, S. McCallister, D. White, P. Reid (sub: M. Shearer), N. Quinn, G. Fother, R. Holder. ASTON VILLA: N. Sorkin, E. Bennett, S. Saunders, S. Teale, P. McGrath, K. Richardson, R. Houghton, G. Parker, D. Saunders, D. Atkinson (sub: M. Smith), D. Yorke. Referee: R. Briggs.

## Wright shows his redeeming side

Arsenal ..... 1  
Middlesbrough ..... 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

ROGUE one week, rescuer the next. At Highbury on Saturday, Ian Wright scored Arsenal's first Premier League goal in eight hours and salvaged their first point in five matches. It crowned a promising start to his public rehabilitation: not a hint of temper or tantrum.

Yet it was barely a true test. Middlesbrough's defenders played it firm and fair but allowed Wright to skip through at leisure, offering him five reasonable chances before he coolly accepted the sixth, nine minutes from time. Wait for the heat of another London derby, similar to that at White Hart Lane seven days earlier when Wright earned an FA misconduct charge for apparently punching David Howells, the Tottenham Hotspur midfielder player.

Wait for the wild tackle from behind and sly off-the-ball nudge, and wait for the response, before discovering whether Wright Mark II is any more calm and controlled. Judgment Day is not yet nigh. "There's no reason why Ian and I cannot sort it out together," George Graham, the Arsenal manager, said. "Terry Venables and Paul Gascoigne did it at Tottenham and Paul has gone on to become the country's darling."

Graham's powers of psy-

chology will be examined to the full over the next few months, not only on his England forward. Arsenal's tide hopes decrease with every disjointed display, the draw on Saturday a depressing example of their muddled minds.

Middlesbrough retreated into a solid yet unadventurous shell — they failed to win a single corner — after taking a fortuitous 34th-minute lead. Hignett's trickery lured Lingham into lunging at the ball, which then spun off a startled Seaman into the net.

Faith, 20, sparked amid the general gloom and did much to justify Graham's post-match verdict: "Mark is going to have a very big future in the game," he said. Smith, returning after six weeks off with ankle trouble, also added an extra option to the predictable Arsenal attack.

Too often, though, Middlesbrough were allowed time and space to hoof clear. Any side with championship ambitions would have figured out how to overcome such drudgery well before the 31st minute.

Campbell strode clear and stroked a precise shot past Peers. It struck the far post and rebounded to Wright, who tucked it away. He must keep his reactions equally sharp, and good natured, for a long time to come.

ARSENAL: D. Seaman, P. Lyndsey, N. Winterburn, D. Hillier, A. Lingham, A. Adams, M. Flett, I. Wright, A. Smith, P. Merson (sub: J. Jerrett), R. Parker (sub: K. Campbell). MIDDLESBROUGH: S. Peers, G. Fleming, J. Phillips, N. Mchugh, D. White, J. Probert (sub: M. Proctor), J. Hignett, A. Pease, P. Willson, C. Hignett (sub: W. Falconer), T. Wright. Referee: S. Lodge.

## Capable Coventry rediscover their touch

Coventry City ..... 5  
Liverpool ..... 1

By PETER BALL

ON FRIDAY, Peter Robins, the Coventry City chairman, told the club's annual meeting: "I believe this team is capable of beating anybody." On Saturday, his words were amply justified as Coventry City inflicted on Liverpool their heaviest domestic defeat since they lost 5-1 to Aston Villa in 1977.

This was not a bad way to end a run of 11 games without a win but hard experience warned Bobby Gould against getting over-excited. In his first spell as manager in 1983, Coventry beat Liverpool by four goals on the Saturday before Christmas.

"At Easter, they beat us 5-0

at Anfield and, as I saw the other results coming up, I thought we'd be relegated," Gould recalled. Instead, as so often, Coventry won the last game of the season to survive.

Their recent plummet down the table revived the pattern of too many previous struggles but their second-half display on Saturday suggests they should have more in hand this time. Even without the exciting Ndlovu, the speed and breadth of some of their attacks was too much for Liverpool.

John Williams was in thrilling form on the right. Gallacher was a constant handful for Liverpool on the other wing and Quinn scored two breathtaking goals to take his tally to eight in five games since his arrival from Newcastle United.

"He's round, he's fat,"

Gould, quoting the terrace chants, said. He then added his own second verse: "But he gets in the box and his finishing is pure quality."

By the time Quinn's stunning half-volley and precise header finished off two sweeping moves, which covered half the length of the field, Liverpool's tatty defence was in shreds.

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, was less concerned about his team's flaws than those he spotted in the performance of Kelvin Morton, the referee.

At 5.10pm, he told radio listeners that three decisions had determined the game. By 5.30pm, in a corridor outside the directors' box, his sense of grievance had strengthened.

"We were in command for an hour but the referee made four strange decisions which

totally changed the whole course of the game," he said, adding doubts about the third goal to his earlier complaints about the first two and the dismissal of Redknapp for his second bookable offence.

Souness had half a point. Liverpool dominated the first half hour and showed they can still pass the ball better than most. But Jonathan Gould enjoyed his debut, justifying his father's decision to convert a slow full back into a goalkeeper on the strength of his catching prowess in cricket, and Coventry survived.

Then came Borrow's penalty and Souness's first complaint. The award for handball, as Redknapp felt, looked harsh but his push on Hurst that preceded the ball suggests Morton had done the right thing if for the wrong reason. Souness was also up-

set after Borrow's second goal, after an indirect free kick, but television showed Wright's foot at the level of Quinn's throat and justified the decision.

The third goal was less clear cut. Gallacher looking offside as he streaked clear, but it is a risk that defences which dabble with offside have to face. If there was some sympathy for Redknapp, who was sent off for blocking Gallacher after having already been booked for encroachment at a free kick, it was muted.

Souness might be better advised addressing his complaints to some supposedly international referees.

COVENTRY CITY: J. Gould, B. Borrow, P. Babb, P. Afferton, K. Sanson, J. Williams, L. Hunt, R. Rosario, M. Quinn, K. Gallacher. LIVERPOOL: M. Hopper, M. Marsh, R. Jones (sub: D. Hutchinson), S. Barnes, T. Riechik, M. Wright, P. Smeaton, J. Macdonald, J. Rush, J. Barnes, M. Walters. Referee: K. Morton.

## THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE

Wky ch'ge	P	Pts	Goal diff	W (H-A)	D (H-A)	L (H-A)	For (H-A)	Agst (H-A)	Leading scorers	Offences S-O Btng	Home attendance Avg 92-3	% chg 91-2	Recent form	Next match
1 (0) Norwich	19	39	+2	12 (7-5)	3 (2-1)	4 (0-4)	34 (15-19)	32 (7-25)	Robins 11, Phillips 7	- 12	14,308	+3.3	dwrrwl	Ipswich (h today)
2 (+1) A Villa	20	35	+10	9 (5-4)	8 (3-5)	3 (2-1)	31 (17-14)	21 (11-10)	Atkinson 11, Saunders 7	- 10	26,861	+8.2	wdwldw	Coventry (a Sat)
3 (+2) Blackburn	20	34	+13	9 (7-2)	7 (1-6)	4 (2-2)	30 (19-11)	17 (7-10)	Shearer 14, Ripley 3	2 20	17,585	+32.7	ldldwlv	Leeds (a Sat)
4 (-1) Man Utd	20	34	+8	9 (5-4)	7 (3-4)	4 (2-2)	22 (12-10)	14 (8-6)	Hughes 8, Cantona 7	- 17	32,797	-27.1	lwrrwd	Sheff Wed (a Sat)
5 (-1) Chelsea	20	33	+6	9 (4-5)	6 (4-2)	5 (2-3)	27 (12-15)	21 (9-12)	Harford 8	- 23	21,121	+13.0	lwrrwd	Soton (h Sat)
6 (+2) Arsenal	20	30	+2	9 (5-3)	3 (1-2)	8 (3-5)	23 (15-8)	21 (9-12)	Wright 11, Merson 3	- 26	25,482	-20.1	wldld	Ipswich (h Sat)
7 (-1) Ipswich	19	29	+5	6 (4-2)	11 (6-5)	2 (0-2)	27 (16-11)	22 (10-12)	Three players on 5	1 17	17,589	+23.2	wdwldw	Norwich (h today)
8 (+2) Coventry	20	29	+3	7 (4-3)	8 (3-5)	5 (4-1)	30 (16-14)	27 (15-12)	Quinn 8	- 10	14,567	+5.0	ldldw	A Villa (h Sat)
9 (-2) QPR	20	29	+3	8 (5-3)	5 (3-2)	7 (2-5)	26 (19-7)	23 (14-9)	Ferdinand 7, Penrice 5	- 19	15,412	+13.4	wldw	Nottm For (a Sat)
10 (-1) Liverpool	20	28	+2	8 (7-1)	4 (1-3)	8 (2-6)	34 (22-11)	32 (11-21)	Walters 6	1 18	34,898	+0.3	wwwrl	Oldham (a Sat)
11 (0) Man City	20	26	+4	7 (3-4)	5 (4-1)	8 (3-5)	27 (15-12)	23 (11-12)	White 9, Sharon 5	1 20	24,554	-11.3	wldld	Sheff Utd (h Sat)
12 (0) Middlesbrough	20	26	+1	6 (5-1)	6 (4-6)	6 (1-6)	31 (19-12)	30 (10-20)	Wilkinson 8, Hendrie 5	- 18	17,716	+20.5	ldldw	Everton (a Sat)
13 (0) Tottenham	20	25	-6	6 (4-2)	7 (4-3)	7 (2-5)	20 (13-7)	26 (10-16)	Sheringham 8, Durie 3	1 19	28,751	+3.6	wldwlv	Norwich (a Sat)
14 (0) Leeds	20	24	-2	6 (6-0)	6 (3-3)	8 (1-7)	32 (24-8)	34 (12-22)	Chapman 10, Speed 8	- 20	28,840	-2.8	wldw	Blackburn (a Sat)
15 (+2) Sheff Wed	20	23	-3	5 (4-1)	8 (3-5)	7 (3-4)	22 (13-9)	25 (12-13)	Hirst/Bright 5	- 18	26,383	-10.7	ddldw	Man Utd (h Sat)
16 (-1) Southmpton	20	23	-3	5 (3-2)	8 (5-3)	7 (2-5)	20 (12-8)	23 (10-13)	Le Tissier 6, Dowle 5	1 30	14,690	+4.4	ddwld	Chelsea (a Sat)
17 (+1) Everton	20	22	-7	6 (3-3)	4 (3-1)	10 (4-6)	17 (9-8)	24 (12-12)	Beardsley 5, Johnston 3	- 8	22,136	-4.4	wldw	Middlesbrough (h Sat)
18 (+2) Oldham	20	21	-6	5 (5-0)	6 (3-3)	9 (2-7)	33 (22-11)	39 (15-24)	Sharp 7, Olney 6	- 17	12,057	-20.1	ldwlv	Liverpool (h Sat)
19 (+2) C Palace	20	21	-7	4 (2-2)	9 (5-4)	7 (3-4)	26 (13-13)	33 (13-20)	Armstrong 8	2 17	14,462	-17.9	ldwlv	Wimbledon (h Sat)
20 (-4) Sheff Utd	20	21	-8	5 (4-1)	6 (5-1)	9 (1-8)	18 (11-7)	26 (8-18)	Deane/Littlejohn 5	2 31	20,286	-8.2	ldldw	Man City (a Sat)
21 (-2) Wimbledon	20	19	-5	4 (2-2)	7 (3-4)	9 (5-4)	26 (14-12)	31 (16-15)	Holdsworth 5	1 23	6,382	-7.6	ldwlv	C Palace (a Sat)
22 (0) Nottm For	20	15	-12	3 (2-1)	6 (2-4)	11 (6-5)	19 (5-13)	31 (11-20)	Bennister/Clough 5	- 9	20,103	-15.3	ldwlv	QPR (h Sat)

TRANSFERS: Patrik Andersson (Blackburn) from Malmö, £200,000; Mick Quinn (Coventry) from Newcastle, £250,000; Glen Livingstone (York) from Aston Villa, fee undisclosed. LOANS: Julian Watts (Sheffield Wed) to Shrewsbury; Michael Williams (Sheffield Wed) to Halifax; Scott Houghton (Tottenham) to Gillingham. Statistics refer to Premier League matches only.

## Blackburn gain ground

WITH Aston Villa and Manchester United both content with one point, Blackburn Rovers moved back into the heart of the pack pursuing Norwich City at the top of the Premier League on Saturday, beating Sheffield United for only their second win in nine games (Peter Ball writes).

But if the result was welcome, Rovers' performance left a lot to be desired. Brian Deane gave their defence a lot of trouble before Kevin Moran headed home Wilcox's corner. The result puts Blackburn third, above Manchester United, on goal difference. Neighbours Oldham ended

their disastrous run of three successive defeats in some style against Tottenham. Ian Olney scored a last minute winner after Sheringham had equalised Sharp's early goal.

Further Northern pleasure came at the grander venues of Goodison and Hillsborough. Everton came from behind to win their second successive home League match as Beardsley's penalty and Rideout's first home League goal defeated Southampton.

Mark Bright's beautifully crafted goal against Queens Park Rangers halted Sheffield Wednesday's disastrous slide down the division.







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## OPERA page 26

Joan Rodgers gives a  
miraculous performance  
in the title role of  
Tchaikovsky's *Yolande*

## ARTS

## MUSICALS page 27

Paul Nicholas steps  
out onto the high wire  
as *Barnum* returns to  
the West End stage



## Princely and noble in lunacy

**THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on the Royal Shakespeare Company's new *Hamlet*, featuring Kenneth Branagh**

Shakespeare gives Hamlet some pretty stunning job references. He is the courtier, the soldier, the scholar, the glass of fashion and the mould of form. He was likely, had he been put on, to have proved most royally. Even Claudius, exaggerating just a little in the second half of his recommendation, calls him generous and free from all contriving. But how often does Hamlet justify his curriculum vitae?

Not often, these days. In fact, I do not think one of those words was true of London's last major Hamlet. Alan Rickman. Had he come shambling and morosely heaving into the office, a prospective employer might have thought he was interviewing. Before on the morning after he got a bust balloon for a birthday gift. But Kenneth Branagh merits each and every iota of the accolade. Promote him to the top job in Denmark today, and there would be no shilly-shallying over ratifying European concords. He is the most impressively princely Hamlet I have seen in ages, and a good deal more than that, too.

The Denmark that Adrian Noble's Barbican production (sponsored by Unilever) offers is between 60 and 80 years older than the Maastricht treaty. The courtiers mostly opt for frock coats and wing collars. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are black-suited creeps with spats and co-respondent shoes. David Bradley's grey-faced Polonius sits behind a vast desk, a grey handstand on one side, a ten-foot-high pile of grey filing cabinets on the other, a Kafkaesque clerk greyly hovering in front of a grey cyclorama.

The cyclorama changes hue from time to time; and it combines with gigantic curtains, some of them dark and heavy, some white and light, to give the production a sparseness and scope. But Bob Crowley, the designer, injects domestic detail, too. What greets the players as they trudge with battered suitcases from what, judging by the puffing and the steam, is Elinore Central Station? A brightly decorated Christmas tree, presumably

another of Claudius's attempts to cheer up his benighted court. Jane Lapotaire's Gertrude, as befits her temperament, inhabits a red bedroom, and Joanne Pearce's Ophelia, as fits someone her father calls "a green girl", a pea-coloured bedsit. One of the latter's possessions is a wardrobe into which Claudius and Polonius retire to overhear her interview with Hamlet. Another is a piano which she desolately strums — and, towards the end, is left symbolically marooned among fallen chairs and withered flowers.

As this suggests, the evening has its eccentricities. I am still pondering the wisdom of bringing Clifford Rose's Ghost — a White King out of a plastic chess-set — up from a hole in Ophelia's herb garden. But considering its length, four-and-a-half hours of uncut New Cambridge Shakespeare, Noble's production maintains its energy and momentum. Moreover, the decor reminds us that this is both a public and a private play, about a kingdom and a family, a prince and a man.

That is Branagh's thinking, too. He is first seen with his head bowed, a black armband defiantly circling his sleeve; but there is nothing bowed about his character. This is a strong, upright Hamlet, who makes the Bernanos and Franciscos jump nervously back when he says something sharpish. For once, his complaint that his uncle "popped in between the election and my hopes" has substance. He certainly seems a more natural leader than John Shrapnel's Claudius, with his natty white suit, clay face and vague resemblance to a mafia godfather en route to the casino.

But this is not just a public Hamlet. Personal warmth is there, too: for Rob Edwards's rumpled Horatio, whom Branagh reduces to tears with the candour of his regard and affection; for a father whose death inspires him with genuine grief, not Oedipal angst; and, more intricately, for an Ophelia herself besotted enough to keep his photo by her bed and harbour hopes of a royal wedding. Branagh's scenes with Pearce are particularly forceful: a tender cuddle followed by a



Hamlet (Kenneth Branagh) and Ophelia (Joanne Pearce): a cuddle followed by a burst of rage

burst of rage in which she gets hurled to the floor and his old love letters ripped up; another desperate clinch after which he spits in her face and, a bit later, publicly humiliates her even more savagely than is usual nowadays.

It is easy to see why Pearce's Ophelia runs dramatically amok, but harder to assess Branagh's own state of mind. His Hamlet may think he is feigning lunacy. Early on, he actually puts on a straitjacket and baits Polonius by waving his united sleeves at him. But he intrudes so erratically into the play-scene that Claudius's sudden exit seems best explained by his under-

standable feeling he is being insulted by a genuine maniac. One moment this Hamlet is wryly cracking jokes or incisively philosophising, the next troubling even Horatio with the intensity of his tantrums.

Presumably Branagh means to be a bit mad as well as "mad in craft" and wants that to answer the oldest of all questions about the play: why Hamlet delays avenging his father. But I am not sure.

Branagh works so hard to give us every aspect of Hamlet — prince, thinker, ironist, son, lover and the rest — that it is inevitable his character seems incoherent at times. But then, a coherent Hamlet

is, by definition, an incomplete one.

I can imagine profounder Hamlets and more instinctively electric ones, but I do not expect to see a solid, more thorough version. Branagh is especially to be recommended to those unfamiliar with the play, as indeed is Noble's production, which is wonderfully lucid and, on the whole, very well performed. Was there ever a Gertrude whose heart was more authentically "delt in twain" than Lapotaire? Or a Polonius who better combined an old man's pedantry with a chief minister's dignity than Bradley? If so, I have not met them.

## CONCERT REVIEW

## Few fireworks at this gala

**Barry Millington sees Sir Georg Solti conduct a restrained celebration to mark his own eightieth birthday and the 100th of Bruckner's Eighth**

Two anniversaries were marked by the performance of Bruckner's Symphony No 8 in C minor given by the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Georg Solti at the Barbican on Friday night. The work itself was 100 years old that night — its premiere was on December 18, 1892 — and it was chosen by Solti to celebrate his eightieth birthday.

The house was full on Friday, but when he entered, Solti was received politely rather than warmly. At the conclusion, the response was enthusiastic rather than rapturous. There were no cheers and the standing ovation was accorded somewhat reluctantly. A matter of respect rather than affection? I think not. People came hoping for an incandescent Bruckner Eighth, and were offered instead an arresting, occasionally great, performance, but one unlikely to be talked about for years to come.

Following the Nowak edition, it had all the characteristic Solti hallmarks: a demonic sense of urgency, driving nervous energy and strongly accented articulation. One has heard more sumptuous renderings of Bruckner's score, more bloom, more homogeneity, more spaciousness. Solti allowed the fiery brass their head, and made little attempt to capture that seamless carpet of sound that Bruckner seems to demand.

This was never a sentimental reading. The emphasis was on action rather than meditation, and even in more measured passages the strings rarely shimmered — one was too aware of detail. That celestial glow familiar from many a fine Bruckner performance was absent from Solti's down-to-earth, secular account.

Nowhere was this more true than in the slow movement, which was decidedly short on serenity. The movement's great paragraphs were unfolded majestically rather than with any sense of mystic contemplation. The image of a Bruckner symphony as a cathedral of sound was not foremost in this interpretation. On the contrary, there was a dramatic, heroic streak, that while not precluding a spiritual dimension, gave precedence to human struggles and concerns.

It was in the Adagio, too, that the single, really spine-tingling event occurred. The terrific eruption of E flat major at the movement's climax is always a spurring moment, but as it approached, Solti tightened his grip inexorably. By the time the cymbals and triangle players stepped forward, the tension was already unbearable. The two players grasped their respective instruments and counted their way to the moment at which they mark the climax, not only of the Adagio, but of the entire symphony. One of



Sir Georg Solti: his Bruckner was down-to-earth and secular

the thrills of live music-making is the enhanced anticipation of such climactic moments by the sight of players poised to make their contribution. The spirit of theatre encapsulated here was of a piece with Solti's handling of the work as a whole.

His pacing was similarly impressive, with each change of tempo seeming justified within the overall span. Thus, even if one felt ultimately short-changed by the lack of substance in this interpretation, it was impossible not to be gripped by its animal energy and powerfully generated drama.

Not quite the performance in a thousand that might have been hoped for, then, but a fitting way for a conductor who has been at the centre of our musical life for many decades to enter his ninth.

## Following in Charlie's footsteps



Hawthorne's C.S. Lewis, not enough box-office pull

WHAT next for Dicky? Now that the epic *Chaplin* has been scrutinised by the Queen, approved (more or less) by the critics and delivered for public consumption, Sir Richard Attenborough is again on the trail of historical luminaries to bring to the screen. After Churchill, Gandhi and Chaplin, a film biography of the political firebrand Tom Paine had long been planned. But that must sizzle on the back burner while the director turns his attention to C.S. Lewis and *Shadowlands*. William Nicholson's much-acclaimed play

## ARTS BRIEFING

about the author's love affair with a New York widow.

Nigel Hawthorne played the role successfully in the West End and on Broadway (he even won a Tony Award). Nevertheless, for the film a meatier box-office name was required. Enter Anthony Hopkins, fresh from playing a peripheral role in *Chaplin* as the great man's publishing editor. The film is scheduled to begin shooting in Britain during the spring.

NEW music will be flowing from the South Bank Centre in London, if all of Nicholas Snowman's plans come to fruition. The South Bank's director has announced no fewer than 35 commissions for the next few seasons.

They include two new symphonies for the resident London Philharmonic to premiere (by Robert Saxton and Jonathan Lloyd); a new opera to be written by Greek avant-gardist Iannis Xenakis; a music theatre piece from Essex enfant terrible Mark Anthony Turnage; a trumpet concerto by Dominic Muldowney; and a new work for string quartet and orchestra, composed by Steve Mackey. That will be premiered by the Hallé Orchestra and the Kronos Quartet. Other commissions go to Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Steve Reich and Luciano Berio.

## Hall tables

TERENCE Rattigan's *Separate Tables* will be the next show from the Peter Hall Company, which has four

projects on offer for 1993. Diana Rigg and Peter Bowles are scheduled to star in the revival which begins a pre-West End tour on March 15. Following that, Hall is planning to direct *Lysistrata*, with Imelda Staunton; *She Stoops to Conquer* with David Essex; and a revival of Pam Gems's *Plaf*, starring Elaine Paige.

HAND-PICKED for their influence, their wisdom and their experience, the chairmen of the ten new regional arts boards — the bodies which are inheriting from the Arts Council the funding of most of the country's arts organisations — are not exactly showing much staying power. Two of them have just resigned. Michael Unger of North West Arts is also editor of the *Manchester Evening News*, and after the IRA bombs in the city he says that his place is in the editor's chair. And David Hargreaves at Eastern Arts has found his duties as chairman of Cambridge University's education committee too absorbing to be concerned with the likes of the Norwich Playhouse.

## Last chance...

THE MADNESS reunion saga continues. Since the success of the group's Greatest Hits collection, there have been comeback concerts at Finsbury Park in August followed by the live album (*Madstock - The Movie*) and now this tour. Will they start writing new material again or will they become another of rock's revivalist institutions, a nifty version of Gary Glitter? Last tour dates: Edinburgh Exhibition & Trade Centre, Ingleton (031-333 3036) tonight, and NEC, Birmingham (021-780 4133) tomorrow.



## SIMPLE MINDS

GLITTERING PRIZE

81/92

on cassette in video

waterfront, don't you forget about me, alive and kicking, better child, love song, promised you a miracle, brutally re-mastered

**PYGMALION**  
BY BERNARD SHAW  
A TOTAL DELIGHT  
It is hard to imagine a finer production of Shaw's most memorable play  
WINTER THEATRE  
TUESDAY 10.00PM  
WEDNESDAY 8.00PM  
THURSDAY 8.00PM  
BOX OFFICE  
FIRST CALL  
NATIONAL



## LONDON

**THE NUTCRACKER:** Tchaikovsky's perennial Christmas offering celebrates its 100th birthday this year, an event marked by English National Ballet in its annual London season. Ben Stevenson's workaday production may not be the most inspired around, but it does boast attractive designs, courtesy of Desmond Heeley.

**HANSEL AND GRETEL:** David Fourney's nostalgic but unimpassioned production is revived at English National Opera, Ross Monaghan's bright, clear Gertie is in lovely partnership with Elaine Robinson's lovely but unimpassioned Hansel. Equally fine performances from Phyllis Cullen and Donald Maxwell. Lionel Friend conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 3161), 7.30pm.

**THE CHOIR OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL:** The distinguished Oxford choir performs a traditional cathedral Christmas programme. St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (071-222 1061), 7.30pm.

**CARTER USSIE:** The South London duo continue to offer an aggressive brand of power pop mixing fuzz-box guitars with plenty of attitude. Stratford Academy, Stratford Road, SW10 (071-335 2121), tonight, tomorrow, 6.45pm.

**JOLIS HOLLAND:** The irrepressible performer plays boogie-woogie with his Big Band. 100, La Paroisse, NW1 (071-264 4339), tonight, tomorrow, 7pm.

**AT HOME GET YOUR GUNS:** Living better's got to be musical if no model for a single woman but the songs are simply smashing. Coventry Street, W1 (071-335 5987), Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**ASSASSINATIONS:** Sanderson's sharp and successful musical explores the impact that drives no-hopes to kill American Presidents. Drovers Warehouse, Earls Court, W2 (071-867 1150), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**BALENDINE:** Paul Nicholas leads the lights in a Christmas revival of the musical. Drovers Warehouse, Earls Court, W2 (071-867 1150), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**CAROUSEL:** Joyden Riding and Michael Hayden star in a triumphant revival of the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical. Drovers Warehouse, Earls Court, W2 (071-867 1150), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**CHRYMDO DE MESSIAH:** Robert Lindsay leads the cast in the recently challenged here but the production is too busy to give enough room to the full polyphony of his tale. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-836 8500), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**HAY FEVER:** Very funny, funny, funny (and always when you expect it) in a Christmas revival of the musical. Drovers Warehouse, Earls Court, W2 (071-867 1150), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**IT RAINS IN THE FAMILY:** Liana in the hospital common room, for Paddy Conroy with lots of laughs. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-836 4401), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, closed Christmas day.

**AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Anne Cullen, Hannah Gordon and Martin Shaw in a "travelling" production. Some dated assumptions but stylish design. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**STAGES:** Haunting performance by Alan Bates as the washed-up artist in David Storey's play for last times and pieces. Lindsey Anderson directs. National (Coliseum), South Bank, SE1 (071-428 2222), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, Mon tomorrow, 8pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**THREE SHIPS ALONG ON A FIELD:** Hansel Water perfect again in a revival of the subtle, comic state-of-the-nation play, set in a world of chilling values and plummeting art prices. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-734 7452), Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sat, 8pm, 10pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

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## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

**JUMPING RED LIGHTS:** Peter Szalai plays an upmarket devil in this show, tempting the audience with strange logic and 18 musical numbers. Cadogan Street, Leicester Square, NW1 (071-428 2222), 7.30pm, 9pm, 10.30pm, 11.30pm.

**BIRMINGHAM:** Hot sales band Come H, headed by Columbia singer Zara, takes us to the Christmas season. Riverside, Broad Street, W1 (071-836 4525), tonight-Thurs, and Dec 28-31, 8.30pm.

**LIVERPOOL:** To mark the ball's centenary, Opera Merit is presenting a new version of Tchaikovsky's classic. The Nutcracker by the popular contemporary dance choreographer Matthew Bourne and featuring the dancers of the Adventures in Motion Pictures company. Presented as part of a double bill with the Tchaikovsky opera, The Nutcracker's original partner at the St Petersburg premiere on December 18, 1892. Grand Theatre, 46 New Bridge Street, L3 (071-555 1400/1), tonight, tomorrow, 7pm.

**LIVERPOOL:** Topical at the moment, with the publication of Keith Bell's authoritative catalogue raisonné of David Storey's play for last times and pieces. Lindsey Anderson directs. National (Coliseum), South Bank, SE1 (071-428 2222), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, Mon tomorrow, 8pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

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**THE NUTCRACKER:** Tchaikovsky's perennial Christmas offering celebrates its 100th birthday this year, an event marked by English National Ballet in its annual London season. Ben Stevenson's workaday production may not be the most inspired around, but it does boast attractive designs, courtesy of Desmond Heeley.

**HANSEL AND GRETEL:** David Fourney's nostalgic but unimpassioned production is revived at English National Opera, Ross Monaghan's bright, clear Gertie is in lovely partnership with Elaine Robinson's lovely but unimpassioned Hansel. Equally fine performances from Phyllis Cullen and Donald Maxwell. Lionel Friend conducts. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 3161), 7.30pm.

**THE CHOIR OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL:** The distinguished Oxford choir performs a traditional cathedral Christmas programme. St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (071-222 1061), 7.30pm.

**CARTER USSIE:** The South London duo continue to offer an aggressive brand of power pop mixing fuzz-box guitars with plenty of attitude. Stratford Academy, Stratford Road, SW10 (071-335 2121), tonight, tomorrow, 6.45pm.

**JOLIS HOLLAND:** The irrepressible performer plays boogie-woogie with his Big Band. 100, La Paroisse, NW1 (071-264 4339), tonight, tomorrow, 7pm.

**AT HOME GET YOUR GUNS:** Living better's got to be musical if no model for a single woman but the songs are simply smashing. Coventry Street, W1 (071-335 5987), Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**ASSASSINATIONS:** Sanderson's sharp and successful musical explores the impact that drives no-hopes to kill American Presidents. Drovers Warehouse, Earls Court, W2 (071-867 1150), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**BALENDINE:** Paul Nicholas leads the lights in a Christmas revival of the musical. Drovers Warehouse, Earls Court, W2 (071-867 1150), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**CAROUSEL:** Joyden Riding and Michael Hayden star in a triumphant revival of the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical. Drovers Warehouse, Earls Court, W2 (071-867 1150), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**CHRYMDO DE MESSIAH:** Robert Lindsay leads the cast in the recently challenged here but the production is too busy to give enough room to the full polyphony of his tale. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-836 8500), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**HAY FEVER:** Very funny, funny, funny (and always when you expect it) in a Christmas revival of the musical. Drovers Warehouse, Earls Court, W2 (071-867 1150), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**IT RAINS IN THE FAMILY:** Liana in the hospital common room, for Paddy Conroy with lots of laughs. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-836 4401), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, closed Christmas day.

**AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Anne Cullen, Hannah Gordon and Martin Shaw in a "travelling" production. Some dated assumptions but stylish design. Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5055), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**STAGES:** Haunting performance by Alan Bates as the washed-up artist in David Storey's play for last times and pieces. Lindsey Anderson directs. National (Coliseum), South Bank, SE1 (071-428 2222), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, Mon tomorrow, 8pm, closed Christmas day and Christmas Eve.

**THREE SHIPS ALONG ON A FIELD:** Hansel Water perfect again in a revival of the subtle, comic state-of-the-nation play, set in a world of chilling values and plummeting art prices. Royal Court, Sloane Square



# Revolution with a light touch

ARCHITECTURE: The spectacular designs of Jean Nouvel are now on show in London. Marcus Binney reports

Rarely since the late 18th-century heyday of Boulée and Ledoux has a Frenchman produced a revolutionary architecture with so direct an appeal to the imagination as Jean Nouvel. Here are visionary projects as extraordinary as Boulée's great spherical monument to Isaac Newton.

Nouvel made his name with the Institut du Monde Arabe, the first, and most acclaimed, of President Mitterrand's grands projets. Now London's ICA gallery brings the story up to date with an exhibition of nine completed buildings and 11 more current projects.

Nouvel's absorbing passion is glass. "It allows us to use light itself as a material," he enthuses. Lightness, transparency, back-lighting, reflections and the night-time view are key elements of his latest work.

He is fascinated with the concept of "dematerialisation", buildings which seem to dissolve before the eye, and the use of layering to create a sense of depth. He rejects one of the canons of modern design, "I can no longer base a project on its structural expression."

Not surprisingly, Nouvel's exhibition is all light and movement (cinema is a passion). Slides are projected to fill the walls "so you can walk around the buildings," he says, and video monitors present individual buildings.

His most eye-catching project so far is the Tour Sans Fin — the endless tower. This is the European counterpart of Sir Norman Foster's Millennium Tower proposed for Tokyo. Designed to stand close to the grand arch at La Défense in Paris, it "disappears" into both ground and sky. The rough granite

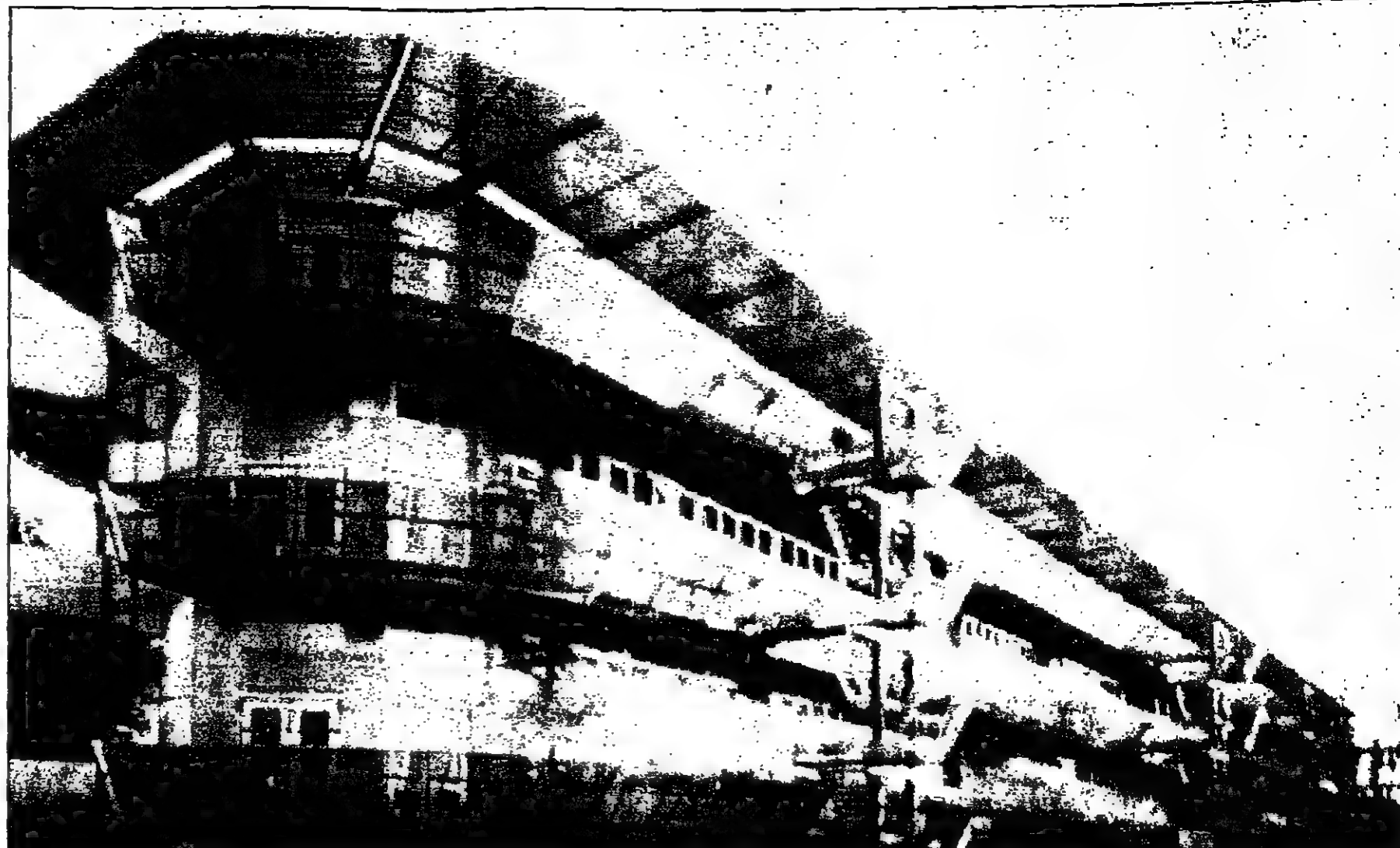
base emerges as from a crater, giving way to polished granite, then to grey stone, then to glass, screen printed with silver motifs that grow steadily more mirror-like as it arrives at cloud level.

For sheer originality in the use of simple geometric forms his proposals for the Galeries Lafayette in Berlin are a sensation. The plans of the upper floors look like slices of gruyère, punctured by different sized circular holes. But a cross section reveals these are part of a small forest of hollow cones, 17 in all, some upright, some inverted.

Vertigo is guaranteed when you look out into the main atrium and find the walls tapering away beneath you all the way to the ground. Here a second funnel-like cone plunges vortex fashion through the basement. Other cones are like fissures, bringing streams of daylight deep into the building.

In Frankfurt the brief provided by the Victoria Insurance Company was simple: "We want the most beautiful building in the world." Nouvel has offered the company the most ethereal, an "ice lost" which would gleam at night, brilliantly lit from within, clear here, opaque there. He takes the all-glass curtain wall facade to a new extreme. It is supported from behind not by steel beams or masts but buttresses which are themselves of glass. To heighten the sense of ethereality, there sounds, imprisoned within the glass front, the facades of an older building Nouvel has been required to preserve.

For Cologne he has designed a luminous blue "media park" tower made up of illuminated sections that stack up like a music centre. One facade is suggestive of a giant



Nemausus, a striking public housing project by Jean Nouvel in Nîmes: "it looks like two Mississippi paddle-steamers, in corrugated aluminium and steel mesh"

television screen, another of a tape cassette holder. Brand names like Siemens and Bosch are everywhere. To invite entry, Nouvel has a red fissure up the full height of the building, suggesting a world of bright lights and music within.

Visionary yes, but will they be built? Happily Nouvel can reply with four major projects which will be completed in the next 16 months. First is an advertising agency on the Ile Saint-Germain in Paris. Nouvel explains: "Modern office blocks have become stereotyped. Paris is full of empty offices like London. We have to reconsider their whole design." He slips his hip pocket. "Now you can have a telephone here, you can dispense with a desk, sit in a comfortable chair or just walk around."

So CLM-BBDO, as it is known, is like a giant riverboat, round at

the stern, set in its own small lake. There are continuous balconies, like deck walks. You can slide open the floor-to-ceiling glass windows and work en plein air. Goodbye to the air-conditioned office prisons of the 1980s. Even the roof flaps over the atrium open and close like clams.

Next May will see the opening of the Opéra de Lyon. "My most important project since the Monde Arabe, and as controversial as Pel's Louvre Pyramid," Nouvel adds. He was obliged to keep the handsome 19th-century exterior but signals revolutionary change by a huge Crystal Palace-style hooped glass roof doubling the building's height.

The auditorium has been increased from 900 to 1,300 seats and reconstructed in six tiers of balconies. "It's not the usual horseshoe. The spectators will be much,

much closer to the action," says Nouvel. "Each box will have its own electric candle so the audience themselves will create the architecture. *Poudre de la salle*."

By the end of 1993 his new congress centre for the city of Tours will be ready, next to the splendid 19th-century railway station by Laloux. "It's very contextual, yet very modern," he says. The front is intriguingly anthropomorphic: a space invader with a cloth cap, supported by giant pillars.

Fourth will be the Fondation Carrier on the Boulevard Raspail in Paris, scheduled for completion in April 1994. "A *château brillant*. A game on immateriality," says Nouvel. The facade is extended outwards and upwards from the building as the screen to catch reflections of trees and sky.

For Carrier he has also just

completed an elegant, ultra-modern factory in Switzerland. It is Miles-like in its sleek lines and use of darkened glass but given an exotic character by its strongly overhanging roof.

Striking, too, is his Nemausus, a public housing project in Nîmes. It looks like two Mississippi paddle-steamers, this time in corrugated aluminium and steel mesh garb. Though to English eyes the exterior access walkways send out alarm signals, Nouvel insists they are appropriate to a Mediterranean climate. Come dusk they turn a vivid nightclub crimson. And the door knobs are all converted fire alarm buttons. For Nouvel "a nice apartment is a large apartment".

By using industrial materials he has increased the size of the average flat by 50 per cent, spread across two and sometimes three storeys.

For the publishing house of Dumont-Schauberg he has proposed a new form of architecture: a glass facade to be screen printed with press headlines and political rubrics from the year in which it is built. What the occupants will feel about looking through a backwards alphabet remains to be seen.

But Nouvel is not such a revolutionary that he is intent on sweeping away the past. He condemns the disasters of the 1960s. He fought against the demolition of the great Parisian markets at Les Halles. Today, he says, the city has to be developed "in small touches with more modesty but more ambition to achieve depth".

● The exhibition runs until February 14 at the ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 0473), but is closed from December 24 to January 3.

THEATRE: Martin Hoyle welcomes a familiar circus, with a new ringmaster, back into the West End

## Roll up for an act with the ring of confidence

This American musical, devoted none too seriously to lauding the showman who famously averred that there is a sucker born every minute, has been a frequent visitor to London over the past decade. Mark Bramble's book whisks through Phineas T. Barnum's life, personal and professional, sketching in just enough to provide a dramatic thread, and the songs by Cy Coleman (music) and Michael Stewart (lyrics) are cheerfully bouncy in a showbiz way. Offering the chance of spectacle, colour and genuine circus acts — juggling, acrobats, the high wire

**Barnum Dominion**

— the show is ideal family entertainment, especially when performed as engagingly as this.

Its title role also provides a whopping opportunity for a singing, dancing, clowning, rope-walking leading man. The unexpected excellence of English actors in both America (Jim Dale) and Britain (Michael Crawford) has almost led to *Barnum* being adopted. Now the first national tour arrives in London

with Paul Nicholas in the main part.

Crawford hurried himself at the audience and conquered through vitality and sheer old-fashioned personality. Nicholas is lower key. He bustles on with the slightly parodied self-importance of a younger Bruce Forsyth. His Barnum is an ingratiating sitcom adventurer rather than the visionary who elevated what he called "humbug" to an art form.

Less dazzling than Crawford, he still manages to walk a high wire and slide down a rope slung above the audience from the gallery to the stage. This Barnum's tricks are edged with anxiety in case they fail — not that they do, but the first night had its quota of off-stage bangs, guns that refused to shoot, and puffs of smoke that anticipated their cue.

The plot follows Barnum's career, from exhibiting a slave as George Washington's 160-year-old nurse, buying London Zoo's Jumbo, entering politics, to final partnership with Bailey to form the first three-ring circus. His emotional life is anchored in a happy marriage with the practical Charity (Carol Duffy), disturbed only by an apparent fling with Jenny Lind, "the Swedish nightingale" who receives him in the favourite casualwear of international



Paul Nicholas as Barnum: an ingratiating sitcom performer rather than a visionary of the circus

divas, tight and ostrich plumes. Clara Miller makes her into a sort of early Victorian Jeanette MacDonald given to anachronistically chromatic waltz songs and refrains like "The game of love amuses, unless of course one loses". The original New York pro-

duction by Joe Layton was directed by Buddy Schwab who died this month. Enthusiastically put over by a young cast trained by circus experts Terry and Danuta Parsons, the show speeds by and is an opportune arrival for the holiday season.

TELEVISION REVIEW: An evocative literary adaptation

## Child of the Caribbean

Post-colonial settings for British television films have been fashionable for years, but *The Hummingbird Tree* (last night, BBC 1) was the first to be shot entirely in Trinidad, using a largely local cast. Based on Ian McDonald's 1969 novel, it told the story of Alan, a privileged white boy aged 12, and his friendship with two Indian servants, 11-year-old Jaillin and her elder brother Kaiser, during Trinidad's first general election in 1946. A combination of sensitive direction, good dialogue and several fine performances resulted in a memorable fable about the loss of innocence.

The three children (Tom Beasley as Alan, Desha Penco as Jaillin and Sunil Y Ramjitsingh as Kaiser) were utterly convincing, especially when Alan found himself torn between his loyalty to his friends, symbolising Trinidad itself, and his obligations to English values. Jaillin's acquiescence in Alan's inarticulate, boyish adoration culminates in her banishment — and that of Kaiser — from the paradise by the sea, after the two of them bathe naked together and are found by Alan's father Stephen (an impressive Patrick Bergin).

The background to this prepubescent idyll was provided by Trinidad's political coming of age. The underlying tension is religious as much as racial. The relationship be-

tween Alan and his parents, the tolerant but blind Stephen and the suburban Anglo-centric Marjorie (Susan Woodbridge superb), is a microcosm of the division within the white community. It is Alan, not his father, who notices Marjorie's adultery with the white candidate of "experience and integrity" in the election (Clive Wood). The boy grasps the hollowness of their way of life, but he is unable to bridge the cultural gulf which separates him from the villagers.

Jaillin and Kaiser keep test-

ing Alan's friendship: they want to be reassured that he does not think them "vulgar". When both Indians are sacked after the bathing incident, Alan seeks approval by telling his father: "I was getting not to like them anyway." But in the poignant epilogue, six years later, Alan meets Jaillin again; and both feel a pang of missed opportunity: "You was white and I was a brown girl." Pascal was right: the heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of.

DANIEL JOHNSON

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## Weekends away in the new year

THIS week's offers include a chance to meet one of the country's leading producers, a Chocobolic Theatre weekend and a special family matinee.

In the new year we'll be offering weekend breaks for members to visit theatres around the country, and enjoy some of the other attractions in the area.

To book, call the Theatre Club's own booking service on 071-413 1412, open 24 hours a day, or call the number given during box office hours. Members may book two tickets for any event.

**LONDON**

The English National Ballet perform *The Nutcracker* at the Festival Hall from Dec 21 to Jan 16.

We've arranged a tea party after the matinee, 2.30pm on New Year's day. Tickets are £30 for adults and half price for children, including the tea party. Tel 071-928 8800.

**THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB**

An Ideal Husband, Globe Theatre, Tues 19 Jan. Tickets are £26 which includes a pre-theatre buffet and a chance to meet the producer, Bill Kenwright. Tel 071-240 1600.

**BIRMINGHAM**

*The Wizard of Oz*, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, A Chocobolic Theatre Weekend, Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Staying at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, members will be given chocolate goodies before going to see *The Wizard of Oz*.

a cup of hot chocolate before bed and a trip to Cadbury World the next day. Tickets for the weekend are £62.75 for adults, and £26.75 for children under 14. Children under 5, staying in their parents' room are just £4.50. Tel 021-236 2302 for details.

Save money on Christmas matinees by booking through the club on 071-413 1412.

*Twelve With My Aunt*, Wyndham's Theatre, Dec 23, 29, 3pm. £18.50 tickets for £12.50.

*Blood Brothers*, Phoenix Theatre, Dec 23, 29, 3pm. £23 tickets for £18.

*Dancing at Lughnasa*, Garrick Theatre, Dec 23, 24, 3pm. £19 tickets for £14.

*Murder by Misadventure*, Whitehall Theatre, Dec 23, 29, 2.30pm. £17.50 tickets for £12.50.

Today is the last posting day for Christmas but it's not too late to order Theatre Gift Tokens. As a Theatre Club member you'll receive one free £1 token for every £10 spent. Tel 071-240 8800 (not the club booking line).

American Jewish comedian Jackie Mason has just announced dates at the Dominion Theatre, March 22, 23 and 24. Tickets are available through the club booking line 071-413 1412.

If you haven't yet joined The Theatre Club, don't delay. These offers are exclusive for members. To join The Theatre Club send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to: The Theatre Club, PO Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 3HH. For more information telephone 071-387 9673.

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## Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 14. Dealings end December 31. Stock-exchange day January 4. Settlement day January 11. Shareholders receive dividends on previous business day. Price recorded at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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## PROPERTY

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## INSURANCE

Company	Price	Wtd	Yld	P/E
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## SEASON'S GREETINGS TO OUR FRIENDS AND CLIENTS

## TANGIBLE SECURITIES

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TEL: 071-628 4200 FAX: 071-588 2718

## MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Company	Price	Wtd	Yld	P/E
100000 Abbey	100	100	100	100
100000 Abbey	100	100	100	100
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100000 Abbey	100	100	100	100
100000 Abbey	100	100	100	100
100000 Abbey	100	100	100	100

## NEWS, PUBLISHERS

Company	Price	Wtd	Yld	P/E
100000 Abbey	100	100	100	100
100000 Abbey	100	100	100	100



■ In another attack by regulators on the privatised industries, Ofwat has attacked Severn Trent for favouring shareholders above customers in setting price levels

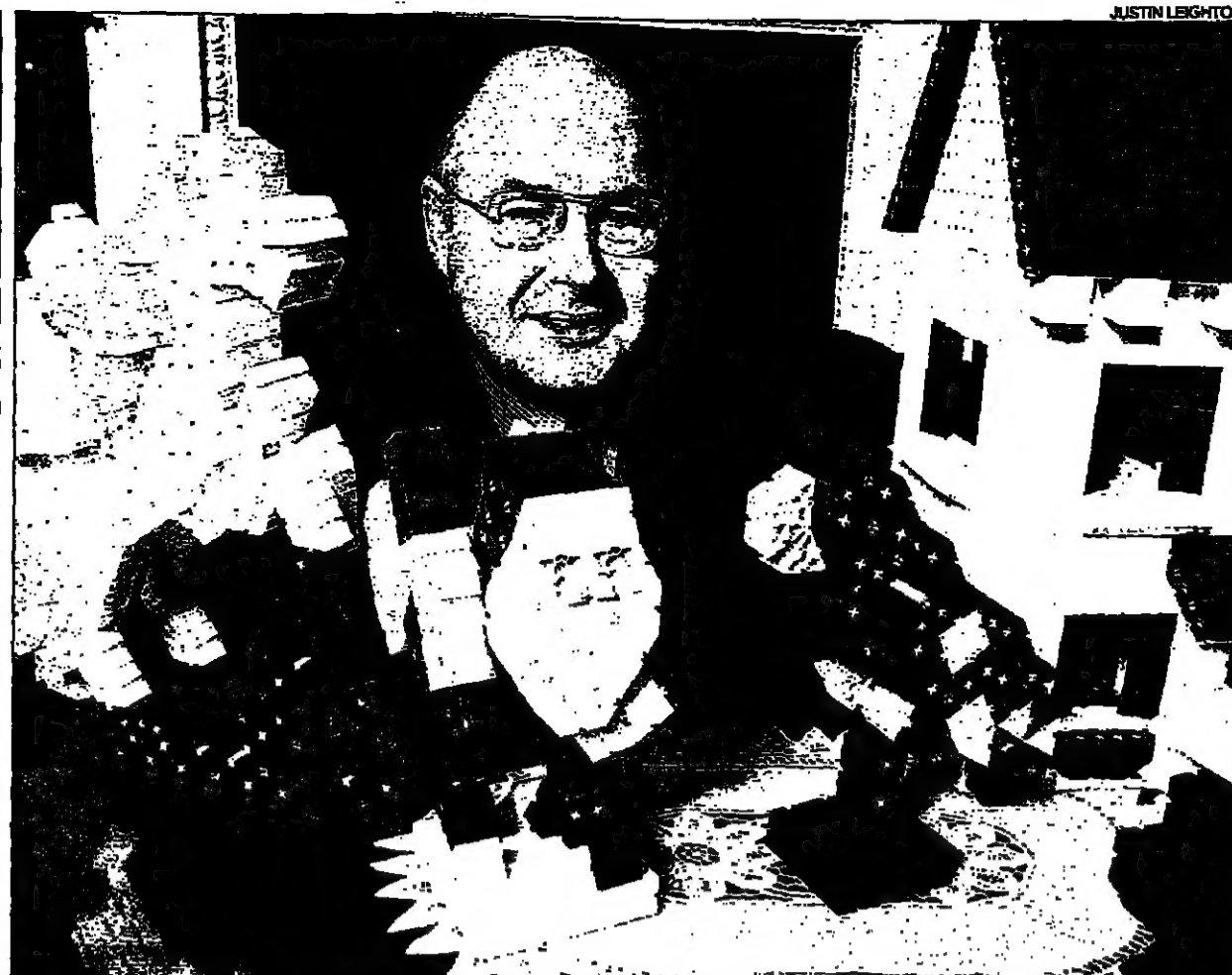
**BY GEORGE STVELI**

Clive Wilkinson, chairman of the central customer service committee of Ofwat, wrote to John Bellak, the chairman of Severn Trent: "The CSC will be urging the Director General of Water Services, in his forthcoming review of prices from 1995, to be as tough as possible in setting the new price levels, because, in my members' opinion, the experience since privatisation is that Severn Trent err too much in favour of their shareholders, and too little on the side of the customer."

Last week, the gas and electricity industries came under attack from their regulators. Ofreg, which regulates electricity, said more competition was needed to limit the market power of National Power and PowerGen, Britain's two biggest generators. In a submission to the monopolies commission, Ofgas called for the British Gas pipeline system to be hived off.

Severn Trent recently announced a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £141 million in the six months to end September and raised the interim dividend by 9.4 per cent to 7p out of earnings up 2.7 per cent to 37.5p a share. In the year to March, Severn managed a 6.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £265 million. The total dividend rose 10 per cent to 19.3p out of earnings up 5.7 per cent to 68.2n a share.

He also stated: "I am sure you recognise that the financial position prior to privatisation was wholly accidental as a consequence of different governments' earlier policies and it is the current financial structure that is relevant. In this context, I must again point out that the company's investment in the last financial year was £585 million in the water business and this represented substantially more than double its profit."



**Toytown builder:** John Mott, Mottik inventor and chairman, is raising half a million to take on Lego.

**By COLIN NARBROUGH**

Under the restructuring, creditors would provide a cash injection of £30 million and Isoceles' debt repayments would be frozen for six months. The creditors are expected to finalise their stance tomorrow.

Isocoles has asked Midland, its agent bank, and 37 other creditor banks, for an emergency standstill on its debt by Christmas to avoid a credit crunch in the new year, when a £20 million interest bill falls due. The rescheduling request was submitted on Thursday at a meeting of the

group and its advisers at Hill Samuel, the merchant bank called in to restructure borrowings. The third attempt at debt restructuring comes only weeks after shareholders approved the second restructuring. Wasserstein Perella, the American investment bank, which owns 30 per cent of Iso-sceles' equity, was earlier understood to be reluctant about a further restructuring, but is now believed to be more agreeable to a debt for equity swap that would dilute its holding.

## By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

**MOTTIK**, Britain's answer to Lego, thrusts itself into the financial world today with a share sale offer to raise about half a million pounds. Mottik is made by Mottik International Group, named after its chairman, John Mott, who invented the Lego-like toy construction system. A Mottik set consists of cubes and triangular wedges as basic building bricks that are linked together with wheel and axle accessories.

The toy will be officially launched at the Earls Court Toy Fair next month, and orders have already been received from Hamley's toy store, who will supply British Airways as part of the airline's "Skyfliers Pack".

THE banana producing nations of Latin America have agreed on a common strategy to fight, possibly with retaliatory action, the European Community's decision to impose a tariff on bananas that could cut imports from Latin America by 25%.

Juan Manuel Santos, the Colombian foreign trade minister, said that the Latin American producer countries might even pull out of the world trade talks. "It could be difficult for Latin American countries to keep negotiating in the Uruguay round, when one of our principal commercial partners does not respect our fundamental principles," he said. Latin America exports about 2.5 million tonnes of bananas to the community, but the tariff regime to come into force in 1991 will be punitive above 2 million tonnes. Community farm ministers ended a long rift between Germany and the former colonial powers by deciding to continue to protect banana producers in former colonies and overseas territories in the Caribbean and Africa, whose fruit is more expensive than the Latin American product.

**THE International Chamber of Commerce has condemned** Bill Clinton's proposals to alter the way Washington taxes multinationals. It says the proposed regulations determine transfer prices among affiliates of multinationals were in direct contradiction to generally accepted principles laid down by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Mr Clinton has suggested he could raise as much as \$45 billion over four years by enforcing tax laws against foreign companies more vigorously. The ICC said: "Implementation of the proposed amendments to international consensus transfer pricing methodology with the serious risk of increased double taxation and distortions to cross-border trade and investment."

## Non-executives flourish

THE influence of the independent director has grown significantly over the past two years, particularly on remuneration and audit committees, according to a survey by 3i, the venture capital group. Today, almost all remuneration and audit committees, which exercise a strong supervisory function over the board of a company, are chaired by independent directors, and almost half are comprised solely of them. Two years ago, most such committees had equal numbers of executive and non-executive directors. 3i says. However, while more than 80 per cent of independent directors think they should have unrestricted access to company information, a recent poll by 3i found only a third of finance directors shared that view.

RJB Mining, one of the largest opencast contractors to British Coal, is to seek a stock market listing next year. RJB operates 11 opencast mines in the UK, and one deep mine at Blenkinsopp, Cumbria. It is also involved in private mining under licence and has interests in estimated coal reserves on sites not currently mined of about 2 million tonnes. Operating profits in 1991 were £15 million on turnover of £76 million. Richard Budge, chief executive, said the flotation would "provide us with additional funding flexibility as we look for further expansion opportunities". The company was created in its current form in February this year through a management buyout, which valued the company at £106.5 million.

**BRITAIN'S** recession — the longest and deepest suffered by any of the G7 countries — may finally be ending. A return to slow economic growth should not prevent base rates from falling further and remaining low for longer than markets currently discount. However, the rally in long gilts appears to be over. Low growth and inflation in 1993 will lead to a steeper yield curve rather than lower long yields.

The government is now focused on restarting the economy. Discontent on the Tory backbenches will resurface if the new policy framework fails to deliver an upswing. Despite higher import prices, underlying inflation should edge lower next year, allowing economic expansion to remain the priority. Disinflationary pressures in the UK are strong. Wage growth is at a 25-year low, and spare capacity is at its highest for more than 40 years. Unemployment in 1993 and 1994 will be at its

Recovery is also needed to avert a fiscal crisis. Even with a modest upturn in the economy, rising government spending will send the fiscal deficit past 8 per cent of GDP next year and higher still in the mid-1990s. That is unsustainable. High deficits and high real gilt yields will cause the government's debt interest costs to balloon. Moreover, if the recession continues in

1993, dwindling tax revenues will catapult the deficit to 10 per cent of GDP. The last time that occurred, in the mid-1970s, the pound collapsed and the IMF had to bail the government out.

Recent declines in both interest rates and the pound should allow the economy to grow by nearly 1 per cent in 1993. That is thin gruel, but debt levels and real interest rates remain too high to allow anything stronger. Personal and corporate debts have yet to fall significantly, property prices remain weak, and mortgage commitments continue to plummet.

Base rates of 7 per cent appear low by the standards of recent decades, but they are still not low enough. In the 1960s, the last time growth rates in money, credit, wages, and manufactured goods prices were as low as now, a 7 per cent base rate was consid-

cuts, of half a point each, in the next quarter, with further cuts, to 5 per cent, in the

As in America, interest rates will not stop falling until economic growth is re-established and the threat of a double-dip is past. That is still some way off.

Sterling is significantly undervalued against the mark and the French franc. Next year, the British economy should outpace its continental neighbours, while German interest rates will fall further than British ones.

Provided the UK economy returns to growth, there could be upward pressure on sterling against other European currencies during the next year, presenting a benign

external background for rate cuts. Despite low inflation in 1993, long gilt yields will remain stranded at about 9 per cent, because the exploding budget deficit casts doubt on Britain's ability to keep inflation low over the long term. Unless the government is prepared to raise taxes sharply or axe spending, the *only way to avert a fiscal crisis* is to keep interest rates low and get the economy moving at above-trend rates, thereby cutting unemployment and raising capacity utilisation.

Past experience suggests that a return to above-trend growth would eventually fuel inflation. Next year's low inflation rate is unlikely to be around for many more Christmases to come.

**MICHAEL SAUNDERS**  
Salomon Brothers  
International

The 1991-92 Academic Year was a challenging time for Higher Education. As competitive pressures increased the University of Nottingham responded with a positive programme of policies, developments and initiatives. A strong financial base, continuing popularity with students from home and abroad and a record value of new research awards enabled Nottingham to enhance its reputation as a major research-led university, a centre for innovative and high quality teaching, and an academic, social and cultural resource of great influence in its City and Region.

**Financial Strength** The University has had a successful year financially. Total income increased by almost ten percent which included substantial increases in income from UFC grants and home students (18%), overseas students (24%) and research (7%). UFC grant allocation put the University of Nottingham in the top ten research-led universities. A surplus of £5.8 million has been recorded and is to be invested in new capital and academic developments. The financial strength of the University is among the very highest in the United Kingdom.

**Research Funding - Another Record Year** Grants and contracts awarded have more than doubled in the past four years despite continuing economic gloom. New awards during 1991-92 totalled £25.6 million against £22.5 million for the previous year.

The New Arts Centre and the Angkor Visions Centre opened during the year to provide significant new facilities for the City and the University.

**Student Popularity** The University of Nottingham remains as popular in terms of applications per available places - a ratio of 15:1.

**Academic and Research Activities:** These include Nottingham's involvement in the development of the Ford Motor Company's new Zeta Engine; major advances in Magnetic Resonance Imaging coinciding with the commissioning of a new purpose-built centre; the major re-structuring and strengthening of Nottingham's contribution to Cancer Research, and the appointment of the first Professor of Stroke Medicine; a far-ranging programme of Computer-Assisted Learning and continued emphasis on staff development.

The University's Annual Report was adopted by The Court. For copies of the Report please contact the University Information Office,  
The University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD Telephone: (0602) 515759

[illegible]

**CHANGE ON WEEK**

<b>THE POUND</b>
US dollar
1.5675 (+0.0075)
German mark
2.4531 (-0.0055)
Exchange index
80.4 (+0.2)
<i>Bank of England official close (4pm)</i>

**STOCK MARKET**

FT 30 share
2147.6 (+84.8)
FT-SE 100
2789.7 (+73.5)
New York Dow Jones
3313.27 (+9.19)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
17680.74 (+239.72)

**blanchquette**  
(c) A dish of light meat (esp. veal) in a white sauce, from the French for *blanch*; *finer*: "It is hard to distinguish clearly between a blanchquette and a fricassee. Both should be made from fresh meat (usually chicken, veal or lamb) cooked in a flavoured white stock. For a blanchquette the meat is more often blanched with herbs and seasoning."

**FILARIA**  
(a) A parasitic ascaroide worm belonging to the genus *Filaria* or to genera closely related to it, from the Latin *filus* a thread; Compton Mackenzie, *Old Men of the Sea*: "If he could have injected Filaria into Biscio and induced elephantiasis he would have done so."

**DOOMIE**  
(a) A name given to an imaginary prophet of doom or giver of warnings, RAF colloquialism, from *doom* + *suffix -ie*: "The era which produced the Gods, Doodles and Grumblers... "Pinwheel" was his name, and he was adopted by our RAF mate under the name of Doomie - and Doomie he remained until the British Army adopted him with the new name of Chad."

**CLAYTONIA**  
(a) A plant of the genus of small herbs so called, belonging to the family Portulacaceae, and native to North America, *Gibberia* and *Australasia*, eponyms of John Clayton, Virginia botanist (1686?-

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
 Solution: black's fortress crumbles after 1 Rxf7! and if  
 1... Rxf7 2 Rd8+ forces mate.



# Now is the time to draw battle lines for next war on inflation

In economic management, as in investment, timing is all. Disinflationary policies must be designed

they were scorned. If Mr Lamont could  
interest rates today and then raised  
them in a few months' time, he would  
be called incompetent. To do one  
thing now and then the opposite  
later, is considered dishonest and  
absurd: if a policy is good, the  
government should do it; if it is bad,  
it should not. Yet what is really absurd  
is this Manichaean view of econom-  
ics. Raising taxes or cutting interest  
rates is neither good nor bad. It

When unemployment falls sharply, inflationary pressures always increase. It is therefore much better for the fall in unemployment and the upward pressure on prices to come at an early stage in the economic cycle when there is excess industrial capacity and most of the jobless are still actively looking for work. If the economic rebound is delayed until later in the cycle, unused factories

some 1.5 per cent next year, followed by 3.5 per cent annually until 1999. Even then, calculations by Goldman Sachs using the Treasury's own fiscal model, suggest that £20 billion of tax increases and public spending cuts would be required to get public deficits down to 3 per cent of GDP by the end of the decade. But if the fiscal tightening were to begin before recovery were fully established,

the supply-side causes of cost push inflation more seriously than it did in the 1980s. There must be much tougher regulation of utility prices, more rational methods of funding public transport, both through market borrowing and property taxes linked directly to transport subsidies. Competition must be promoted more aggressively in businesses ranging from food retailing and car distribution to life assurance and legal services where the cost-plus mentality seems still to prevail.

In all, it is a challenging agenda. John Major was right when he said that defeating inflation was not easy. But simply prolonging recession will make the agony even worse.

THERE is no surer way to spoil a child's Christmas week than a bad end-of-term report from school. Emil Morlett, mining analyst at Smith New Court, seems to think a few companies could do with their Christmas being spoilt, too. The witty reports will please the parents of one Ary Zed — "He is once again top of the class", but poor old D. Bears, who has fairly upset the mining community one way and another during 1992, will not be happy with the headmaster's final comment after poor grades and bad marks from various teachers. The head concludes: "I am exceedingly disappointed by this report on one who for many terms has been one of our top pupils. It clearly shows how easily marks can slip. Must try harder." Hear, hear!

preserve the status quo as you suggest. The "long hard look in the mirror" has been taken.

Yours faithfully,  
**BRIAN MACMAHON,**  
Chairman,  
The National Association of  
Pension Funds,  
12-18 Grosvenor Gardens,  
SW1.

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## How to boost housing

*From Mr Anthony Gee*

Sir, These thousands of retired British ex-pats who would jump at the chance of owning a UK residential property for their own occasional use. They cannot do so, however, because of the Inland Revenue's "available accommodation:" and "ninety days" rules.

About four years ago these rules were being looked at with a view to amendment, so that Britain would then fall in line with its European neighbours, but for some reason sensible proposals were not implemented.

Perhaps the government should now reconsider the position, with a view to creating a new large and welcome demand for domestic accommodation from this untapped, and at the moment, (because of illogical and irrelevant tax rules) untappable market.

Yours faithfully,  
**ANTHONY GEE,**  
Solicitor,  
Box 130,  
Credit Andorra,  
La Massana,  
Principality of Andorra.

**THE "SHELL"  
TRANSPORT AND  
TRADING COMPANY,  
p.l.c.**

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Thursday, 14th January, 1993 for the preparation of the half-yearly dividend payable on the **SECOND PREFERENCE SHARES** for the six months ending 31st January, 1993. The dividend will be paid on 1st February, 1993.

For Transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrars' Department, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex, BN9 6DA, no later than 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 14th January, 1993.

Shell Centre  
London, SE1 7NA  
21st December, 1992

By Order of the Board  
J.A. Conliffe  
Secretary



**BBC1**

6.00 *Ceeba* (10182)  
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Tanya Sellen present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (40749334)

9.05 *Blood and Honey*. The start of an imaginative look at the story of Christmas, written and told in five daily parts by Tony Robinson (4431570) 9.20 *The New Yogi Berra Show* (1) (5138860) 9.30 *Come Midnight Monday*. Episode one of a seven-part Australian drama (1) (72599)

10.00 News, regional news and weather (3447808) 10.05 *Playdays*. For the very young (9) (5048841) 10.30 *Snoopy's Reunion* (1) (31112) 11.00 News (3447808) 11.05 *When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth* (1970) starring Victoria Vetri and Robin Hawdon. Prehistoric fantasy adventure directed by Val Guest (5016334) 12.40 *Cartoon Double Bill* (1269518) 12.50 *Good Morning Adventure* (3447808) 12.55 *Regional News* and weather (3447808)

1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. (Ceeba) Weather (29570) 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceeba) (2188897)

1.50 *Film: Carry On... Follow that Camel* (1967) starring Jim Dale, Phil Silvers, Anita Harris and Peter Butterworth. Comic account of the adventures of a wrongly-disgraced English aristocrat who joins the Foreign Legion. Directed by Gerald Thomas (4883063) 2.30 *Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories*. A cynical sheriff receives more than he bargained for when he arrests Santa for breaking and entering. (Ceeba) (3377792)

3.45 *Henry's Cat*. Cartoon (1) (6808808) 3.50 *Wildabout*. This last in the wildlife series looks at movement in the animal kingdom (1) (5585044) 4.05 *Cartoon Double Bill* (1) (72599) 4.15 *Jimbo and the Jet Set* (1) (6788294) 4.30 *Walk on Earth*. The penultimate episode of the 12-part science fiction comedy thriller (1) (2944355) 4.55 *Peter Pan and the Pirates*. (Ceeba) (5585170) 5.00 *Neighbours* (1) (6808808) 5.05 *Blue Peter*. (Ceeba) (5585170) 5.30 *Neighbours* (1) (6808808) 5.55 *Blue Peter*. (Ceeba) (5585170)

6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceeba) Weather (824)

6.30 *Regional News* (976) 6.55 *A Hard Road* 7.00 *Eldorado*. (Ceeba) (8247) 7.30 *Wildabout*. This last in the wildlife series looks at movement in the animal kingdom (1) (5585044) 7.55 *Cartoon Double Bill* (1) (72599) 8.15 *Jimbo and the Jet Set* (1) (6788294) 8.30 *Walk on Earth*. The penultimate episode of the 12-part science fiction comedy thriller (1) (2944355) 8.55 *Peter Pan and the Pirates*. (Ceeba) (5585170) 9.00 *Neighbours* (1) (6808808) 9.05 *Blue Peter*. (Ceeba) (5585170)

9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Michael Buerk. (Ceeba) Regional news and weather (4826)



A nightmare... rules: Sam Neill and Nicole Kidman (9.30pm)

9.30 *Film: Dead Calm* (1989) starring Sam Neill and Nicole Kidman. Gripping Australian thriller about a couple who take a holiday to recover from the death of their young son and rescue a man from a lifeboat who turns out to be a psychotic killer. Directed by Philip Noyce (31083)

11.00 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* who selects his favourites and introduces a report from the United States on the state of the film industry over there (5) (512824) 11.30 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* who selects his favourites and introduces a report from the United States on the state of the film industry over there (5) (512824) 11.30 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* who selects his favourites and introduces a report from the United States on the state of the film industry over there (5) (512824)

11.45 *Film: UHF* (1989) starring Weird Al Yankovic. An anarchic comedy parodying American film and television about a young man whose innovative ways of running a television station won by his uncle in a card game earn him success and the unwelcome attentions of a jealous rival. Directed by Jay Levy (901062) 12.20-1.55 *Film: UHF* 1.20am *Weather* (3328718) 1.25-1.30 *A Hard Road*

**BBC2**

8.00 *Breakfast News* (5880044)  
8.15 *Film: The Falcon's Adventure* (1948, b/w) starring Tom Conway and Marge Meredith. The debonair detective foils an abduction and becomes a prime suspect in a murder case. The first in a Falcon series, directed by William Berke (387334)

9.15 *Film: Mr and Mrs Smith* (1941, b/w) starring Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery. The Hitchcock season continues with this witty screwball comedy about a couple who discover that their marriage is invalid after the state boundaries are changed (955044)

10.45 *Animation Now*. A behind-the-scenes look at the world of stop-frame film-making (1) (2370470) 11.00 *Mr Bean* (1) (2063063)

11.15 *Priddy the Hedgehog*. John and Simon King's film about a female hedgehog living in the Mendips (1) (5876599)

12.10 *Nikolaev Plays Shostakovich*. The first of a new series in which the Russian pianist Tatiana Nikolaeva plays the complete cycle of the 24 Preludes and Fugues (Op 87) by Dmitri Shostakovich. She begins with numbers one to five (1) (8716599)

12.55 *The Lambeth Boys*. A two-part follow-up to a documentary made 30 years ago about a group of teenagers who were members of one of London's biggest youth clubs. This is the story of the group's reunion (3072247)

1.55 *Christmas Carols*. *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* sung by the choir at Ely Cathedral (1) (8033073)

2.00 *News* and weather (5880044) followed by *The Warlords*. A biography of General MacArthur (5880044) 2.30 *Regional News* and weather (5880044) 2.55 *Regional News* and weather (5880044)

3.00 *News* and weather (5880044) followed by *Songs of Praise* from St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle (1) (Ceeba) (5880044) 3.30 *News* and weather (5880044)

4.00 *International Golf*. The Canon shoot out over nine holes at Llanwrthwl between eight top players including Nick Faldo, Ian Woosnam, Seamus Power and Sandy Lyle (2044)

5.00 *International Showjumping* from Olympia (1) (5426708)

5.50 *Life with Eliza* starring John Sessions. (Ceeba) (126402)

6.00 *The Adams Family* (b/w). (Ceeba) (495044)

6.25 *DEF II* begins with *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. Affluent west coast comedy (3377792) 6.50 *DEF II* continues with *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. Affluent west coast comedy (3377792) 7.00 *DEF II* continues with *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. Affluent west coast comedy (3377792)

7.30 *Film: The Dark Crystal* (1982). An accomplished fantasy adventure from the stable of Muppeteer creator Jim Henson about a young man on a mission to save the world from evil forces. Directed by Jim Henson and Frank Oz (38888)

9.00 *I'm Alright*. *Christmas*. Peter McCarthy takes a look at what it means to be British at a time when 'federalism' is the buzz word (8228)



Miss Pym (Patricia Routledge) meets Jilly Cooper (9.30pm)

9.30 *Bookmark: Miss Pym's Day Out*. A charming reconstruction of the novelist Barbara Pym's trip to London in November 1977 to attend the Booker Prize ceremony. Starring Patricia Routledge (976229) 10.20 *Manipulation*. Daniel Greaves' short that won the 1992 Oscar for animation (1) (111266)

10.30 *Newsnight* with Sue Cameron (181518)

11.15 *Film: Breathless* (1960) starring Jean-Paul Belmondo. An unapologetic remake of Jean-Luc Godard's 1960 film about a petty thief who kills a policeman and seeks the help of a student (Valeria Kaprisky) to assist his escape. Directed by Jim McCarthy. (Ceeba) (305599)

12.50am *Weather* (3328718)

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode**

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video recorders to help you find the programme you want to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0899 121204 (calls charged at 45p per minute plus 35p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus, Acorn Ltd, 5 Ivory House, Rampton Wharf, London SW11 3TN. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Acorn Ltd.

**ITV LONDON**

6.00 *TV-am* (539795)  
6.25 *The New Adventures of He-Man*. Animated action adventure (5882150) 9.50 *Thames News* (3065158)

9.55 *Film: The Strongest Man in the World* (1975) starring Kurt Russell and Joe Flynn. A Walt Disney comedy about two students discovering a formula which, when mixed with breakfast cereal, produces super-strength. Directed by Vincent McEveety (7883402)

11.40 *Stargate*. A compilation of stunts created for television and cinema (4781599)

12.30 *Lunchtime News*. (Oracle) Weather (1537570) 12.50 *Thames News* (11243570)

1.00 *Home and Away*. Australian family drama. (Oracle) (54266)

1.30 *Film: Baby - Secret of the Lost Legend* (1985) starring William Katt, Sean Young and Patrick McGeehan. A Disney adventure about a single-minded scientist intent on being the first to discover a living dinosaur. Directed by B.W.L. Norton (5833808)

3.10 *ITN News* headlines (7443808) 3.15 *Thames News* headlines (7443808) 3.20 *Thames News* headlines (7443808) 3.25 *Thames News* headlines (7443808) 3.30 *Thames News* headlines (7443808)

4.00 *Film: Journey Back to Oz* (1971). An animated sequel to the classic fantasy *The Wizard of Oz*. With the voices of Liza Minnelli, Mickey Rooney, Danny Thomas, Milton Berle and Ethel Merman. Directed by Hal Sutherland (5953570)

5.40 *Early Evening News*. (Oracle) Weather (595966)

6.00 *Home and Away* (1) (Oracle) (792)

6.30 *Thames News* (804)

7.00 *What You Were Here*. A Judith Chalmers is in the ancient Polish city of Cracow. Anna Walker goes stargazing in Wyoming and Nick Owen visits the Holy Land (Oracle) (3315)

7.30 *Coronation Street*. (Ceeba) (228)

8.00 *Survival Special: Ring of Fire*

8.10 *CHOICE: What was the BBC's Reims of the Russian Bear* and this Nature of Russia series from Anglia, it is a good thing that Russia is such a big place. Otherwise it might be difficult to move for British camera crews. Tonight we are in eastern Siberia, some 5,000 miles east of Moscow and the source of much ancient folklore. For a start we can look at the eyes on molten rock from one of the many active volcanoes on the Kamchatka peninsula. We can watch eagles swooping down to catch salmon and brown bears on the same quest, though much more clumsily. There is a warning about saving the forests as the Japanese move into the Russian logging industry. But the main focus is the volcanic landscape, the world's largest wildcat, strikingly photographed at night with a camera able to 'see' in total darkness. (Oracle) (4131)

9.00 *Film: Aliens* (1986) starring Sigourney Weaver. An exciting sequel to the sci-fi success *Alien* with Weaver, the sole human survivor from the original film, pluckily returning to the planet that spawned the unsightly creatures. A platoon of marines goes with her. The special effects won an Oscar. Directed by James Cameron. (Continues after the news) (Oracle) (4) (4995)

10.00 *News at Ten*. (Oracle) Weather (941334) 10.20 *Thames News* (106792)

10.30 *Film: Aliens* continued (37247)

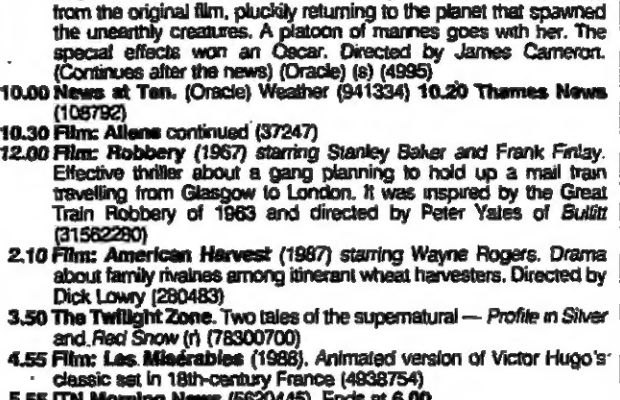
12.00 *Robbery* (1987) starring Stanley Baker and Frank Finlay. Effective thriller about a gang planning to hold up a mail train travelling from Glasgow to London. It was inspired by the Great Train Robbery of 1963 and directed by Peter Yates of *Bullitt* (3158220)

2.10 *Film: American Harvest* (1987) starring Wayne Rogers. Drama about family values among itinerant wheat harvesters. Directed by Dick Lowry (290433)

3.50 *The Twilight Zone*. Two tales of the supernatural - *Profile in Silver* and *Red Snow* (1) (7830070)

4.55 *Film: Las Maderables* (1988). Animated version of Victor Hugo's classic set in 18th-century France (4938754)

5.55 *ITN Morning News* (5620445). Ends at 6.00



Survival tactics: Sigourney Weaver, second left (9.00pm)

10.30 *Film: Aliens* continued (37247)

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**CHANNEL 4**

6.00 *Cartoons* (15179)  
7.00 *The Big Breakfast* presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (42421)

9.00 *You Bet Your Life*. Game show hosted by Bill Cosby (5) (6578857) 9.25 *Laurel and Hardy*. Animated adventures of the comic duo (5141889)

9.30 *Sesame Street*. Early learning series (81911)

10.30 *Film: Charlie Chaplin Festival* (1938, b/w). A compilation of four of his best shorts - *The Immigrant*, *The Adventurer*, *The Cure* and *Sassy Street* (38131)

12.00 *The Cat in the Hat*. Animated tale of two bored children (40402)

12.30 *Famous People, Famous Places*. The first of a new quiz series presented by Ffionn to One's William G. Stewart (5) (92363)

1.00 *Annals of Green Gables*. The first of a two-part adaptation of L.M. Montgomery's classic story of an orphan girl (Megan Follows) who arrives unexpectedly on a Canadian farm (1) (Teletext) (30184841)

2.55 *The Flying Phantoms*. A Survival documentary about threatened British barn owls (5880082) 3.25 *Transformations*. Alchemy examined from its scientific and historical base (349179)

4.25 *Rhino Christmas*. Off-beat comedy fantasy set in suburban Australia (5) (3123088)

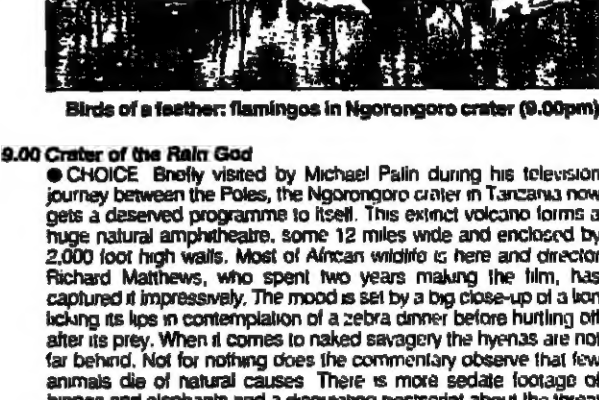
5.00 *Teletext*. Children's animated magazine (2088)

6.00 *The Word* - Access All Areas. A behind-the-scenes look at last Friday's youth magazine (5) (334)

6.30 *The Wonder Years*. Kevin is with his parents when they visit his sister at her college and notes their reaction when they discover she is living with a man (1) (686)

7.00 *Channel 4 News*. (Teletext) Weather (265570) 7.50 *Comment* (478860)

8.00 *Brookside*. Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (5) (7155) 8.30 *Desmond's*. Comedy set in and around a south London barber's (Teletext) (5) (812)



Birds of a feather: flamingos in Ngorongoro crater (9.00pm)

9.00 *Critter of the Rain God*

9.10 *CHOICE: Early visit by Michael Palin during his television journey between the Poles, the Ngorongoro crater in Tanzania now gets a deserved programme to itself. This extinct volcano forms a huge natural amphitheatre, some 12 miles wide and enclosed by 2,000 foot high walls. Most of African wildlife is here and director Richard Mathews, who spent two years making the film, has captured it impressively. The mood is set by a big close-up of a lion looking at the camera in contemplation of a zebra dinner before hunting after its prey. When it comes to naked savagery the hyenas are not far behind. Not for nothing does the commentary observe that few animals die of natural causes. There is more sedate footage of hippos and elephants and a disquieting postscript about the threat posed to Ngorongoro by the growth of tourism. (Teletext) (2537)*

10.00 *Film: October* (1928, b/w)

10.10 *CHOICE: When the tenth anniversary of the Russian Revolution loomed in 1927 Sergei Eisenstein was given official backing to celebrate the event on celluloid. The result was not quite what the authorities wanted. For one thing Trotsky had fallen out of favour and references to him had to be edited out. For another, instead of treating his masters to a stately piece of socialist realism, Eisenstein let his imagination take off. The Tsar's statue is dismantled and magically comes together again. The deposed Kerensky is mercilessly parodied as a strutting peacock. More to official taste was the climactic scene of the storming of the Winter Palace, although the actual episode was much tamer. This rare television showing of a silent classic comes with a new recording of Edmond Meisel's original orchestral score (5) (3597059)*

12.15am *Film: The Devil's Brother* (1933, b/w). A Laurel and Hardy opera spoof set in 18th century Italy. Directed by Hal Roach and Charles Rogers (221626). Ends at 1.50

**VARIATIONS**

**ANGLIA**

As London except: 6.05-11.40 *Film: Escape of the Amazon* (7883402) 1.30-3.10 *Film: An Allegor Named Daley* (2533306)

**BORDER**

As London except: 6.00 *Lookaround* (703) 6.30-7.00 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 7.00-7.30 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 7.30-8.00 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 8.00-8.30 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 8.30-9.00 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 9.00-9.30 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 9.30-10.00 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 10.00-10.30 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 10.30-11.00 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 11.00-11.30 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 11.30-12.00 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 12.00-12.30 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 12.30-1.00 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 1.00-1.30 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 1.30-2.00 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 2.00-2.30 *Film: The Year with Billy Nomates* (1) (512824) 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Keeping inflation  
at bay  
outside the ERM

# BUSINESS

MONDAY DECEMBER 21 1992

Water watchdog  
makes attack  
on Severn Trent

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

## Ford suppliers told 'cut prices or lose orders'

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

FORD Motor Company is stepping up pressure on its suppliers in an effort to restore profitability savaged by recession and declining market share in Britain.

In a letter to suppliers, the company has called for price cuts on components and materials, adding that those who fail to help may no longer be asked to bid as the company cuts the number of suppliers it deals with.

Ford's warning has won little sympathy from some smaller suppliers, who complain that the company is trying to use its market muscle at a time when they, too, are struggling to make ends meet in the recession.

They are particularly irked that the letter, from Mike Crighton, director of facilities

**Ford has sent a letter warning that it expects to cut back on suppliers and urging them to help the car company by reducing component and material prices**

and general supplies, arrives at a time when Ford is raising its own prices in an effort to rebuild its profit margins. The managing director of one supplier said: "We are already looking at a break-even situation this year, and like everyone else we are looking to reduce costs and labour. Are they going to reduce the price of their Sierras to help our business?"

He said over-powerful buyers posed just as much of a problem for many smaller companies as unhelpful bank managers.

Ford said it was seeking to cut costs wherever possible, although not at the expense of

quality. A spokeswoman said: "If a particular supplier has a problem, he should come and talk to us. That is what the letter invites them to do."

In his letter, Mr Crighton warned suppliers that Ford was ill placed to cope with additional cost at a time of unprecedented investment. "In 1993, we will not be able to accept price increases from you and rather there will be need for price reductions," he said.

"In the coming years we plan to make a significant reduction in our supplier base so that better performers who support us the most will benefit from additional volume. I am sure you will recognise the economic realities now facing our business and will work with us to address them."

Last week, Ford announced it was cutting a further 10,000 jobs in Europe by the end of 1993. A one-off charge of £266 million to cover the cuts will contribute to a net loss for Ford operations worldwide during 1992, Harold Poling, Ford's chairman, has predicted.

Larger Ford suppliers are also expected to play their part in the cost-saving process. However, they tend to work closely with the vehicle assembler in the development of models and feel themselves to be in a more even relationship. A spokesman for GKN, which supplies Ford and many other manufacturers with constant velocity joints for transmissions, said: "Our relationship with Ford is much more one of partnership. The pressures on price are always there. For the last year or more, the pressures have been very considerable, but we are all in the same cycle. Everyone is looking for the best deal they can get."

"We are working with them a long time before a car is produced on the development programme. But once the product goes into production they look to us to cut the price as we get better at making it."



Waiting for Santa: if Lord King's USAir bids fails, there is always next Christmas

## USAir failure will not deter King from American quest

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND MARTIN FLETCHER

LORD King, the British Airways chairman, may be disappointed over the prime minister's apparent failure to persuade the Bush administration to approve a BA stake in USAir, but he is unlikely to abandon his search for a partner airline in America.

Bent on plugging the American gap in his global strategy for BA, Lord King could make a serious legal challenge to a "No" from Washington, as BA has contended throughout that its \$750 million bid for part of USAir was carefully structured so as to comply with US law. Under the deal, BA would obtain only 21 per cent of the voting rights at USAir.

Washington's rejection of a BA-USAir alliance looked all

but certain yesterday after John Major and President Bush had apparently failed to reach agreement during their Camp David summit.

A senior British official said the BA bid was discussed, but admitted: "I still think one has to be downbeat." The issue "certainly has not been resolved". Andrew Card, the US transport secretary, must decide on the BA offer by December 24 when USAir shareholders plan an extraordinary meeting to consider his ruling.

Sir Colin Marshall, the BA chief executive, who last persuaded Canberra to allow BA to take a 25 per cent stake in Qantas, the Australian national carrier, has said if the bid for USAir were refused, BA

would have to know the precise grounds before it could formulate a response.

Under pressure from the powerful American airline lobby, Washington has insisted that Britain must open up Heathrow to American carriers before BA can gain access to the American market. Even Bill Clinton, the President-elect, said last week that he would like "some corresponding access" for American airlines in Britain if BA was to have significant influence on USAir policy.

The crucial attraction of USAir for BA is that, while the fourth-largest US carrier, it is primarily a domestic airline, making it an ideal fit for BA's international network.

## Hopes grow for compromise to secure future of Rosyth dockyard

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

MANAGERS at the Rosyth Naval Dockyard, in Fife, are now cautiously optimistic about the chances of a compromise deal to secure the survival of the yard and most of its 4,000 jobs.

A compromise solution, which the Ministry of Defence appears to favour at this stage, would allow both Rosyth and the Devonport yard at Plymouth, Devon, its competitor, to continue operating maintenance contracts for the navy, with Rosyth gaining the contract for the refitting of the Trident nuclear submarine system, and Devonport concentrating on surface repair work. It had been originally proposed to concentrate all work, including that on Trident, at Plymouth, and to close down the Scottish yard, situated on the north shore of the Firth of Forth, the biggest deep-water estuary on the east coast.

Closure of the yard would have been a serious blow to the Scottish economy, and there had been estimates that as many as 14,000 jobs in the region would have to go, including suppliers.

Malcolm Rifkind, defence secretary and a former Secretary of State for Scotland, will not announce an official decision until January, but according to reports in Scottish newspapers, "senior officials" at the Ministry of Defence have indicated that a compromise deal is now the most likely outcome. A spokesman

for Rosyth said yesterday that "we are not expecting to get confirmation until the second week in January, but we are confident that the yard will not have to close".

A spokeswoman for the MoD refused to comment yesterday, other than repeating that a decision was due in January.

The closure was originally proposed by the Navy Board on cost grounds and has provoked an outcry in Scotland. A decision to keep the yard open would be further evidence of the government's U-turn on industrial and regional policy, after the coal mine fiasco earlier this year.

The two naval shipyards have been locked in fierce competition over the maintenance contracts. The scaling down of Britain's nuclear submarine fleet has meant potential maintenance cost savings, most notably through the concentration of maintenance at a single dockyard.

Rosyth has been the last two decades the sole yard for refitting Polaris nuclear submarines, which are based at Faslane, Strathclyde.

Trident, which replaces Polaris, requires new facilities. The government has already invested heavily on a couple of unfinished dry docks at Rosyth.

The compromise plan would still entail job losses at both yards, though significantly fewer than had Rosyth been closed down.

## Inflation forecast to climb in 1993

By OUR ECONOMICS STAFF

UNEMPLOYMENT and inflation will climb throughout next year, while the economy will only revert to sluggish growth, according to a leading economic forecasting group.

Ernst & Young Independent Treasury Economic Modelling Club (Item) forecast a rise in unemployment to 3.4 million by 1994, as another 500,000 people join the dole queues. The government's determination to keep underlying inflation below 4 per cent will also be sorely tested as the devaluation of the pound will force up import prices. This will translate into a higher overall rate of inflation. According to Item, inflation will rise to more than 4 per cent by the end of next year and then to 5 per cent in 1994.

Economic growth will be sluggish at 0.8 per cent in 1993, and will rise to 2.2 per cent in 1995. The positive effects of lower interest rates and sterling devaluation are being cancelled out by the weakness of Britain's largest

continental European export markets.

The forecast assumes a cut in interest rates to 6 per cent next year, but companies and households would continue to cut debts, rather than raise spending. Falls in house prices have also made it more difficult for people to take on more debt.

Interest rates may even go up in 1994 because of increased inflation, which Item expects to remain at around 4 per cent until 1996-7.

The public sector borrowing requirement would climb to £50 billion, 8 per cent of gross domestic product, by 1993-4. The weakness of economic recovery will make it hard for the government to cut the PSBR towards the 3 per cent of GDP outlined in the Maastricht treaty guidelines for economic and monetary union.

Item predicts that the government will have to raise taxes to cut the PSBR sufficiently to meet the Maastricht target.

## Factory pay deals fall to 3.1% average

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE manufacturer in three has imposed a pay freeze on employees, contributing to a sharp fall in the level of pay settlements, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

Manufacturing pay settlements fell to an average of 3.1 per cent for the three months to end-November, according to provisional figures from the CBI's pay databank. The rise is within a whisker of the 3 per cent increase in inflation, measured by the retail prices index, in the year to November, and 1.1 points lower than the 4.2 per cent provisionally

calculated by the CBI for the quarter to end-September.

Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, said the figures "demonstrate a further marked change for the better in pay and performance behaviour in the summer. Settlements are falling sharply now in manufacturing and services, and productivity momentum is being maintained".

The rate of pay growth in manufacturing, however, continues to be markedly lower than in service companies. According to the pay databank, awards in service

firms averaged 3.7 per cent during the three months to end-September, compared with 4.5 per cent in the three months ending August and 5.6 per cent during the period to end-November last year.

So far this year, the CBI says, manufacturing awards have averaged only 3.4 per cent, with one in six companies imposing a pay freeze of six months to a year.

Manufacturing productivity gains have improved. During the third quarter, productivity improved on average at an annualised rate of 2.7 per cent, compared with 2.1 per

cent during the second quarter.

The CBI believes it essential to ensure that pay rises are financed through productivity gains, and that employers do not surrender the improvement in their competitive advantage obtained through the devaluation of sterling by conceding higher settlements than they can afford.

Mr Davies said: "If these positive trends can be consolidated across the economy, we will be well positioned to compete effectively in world markets when recovery comes."

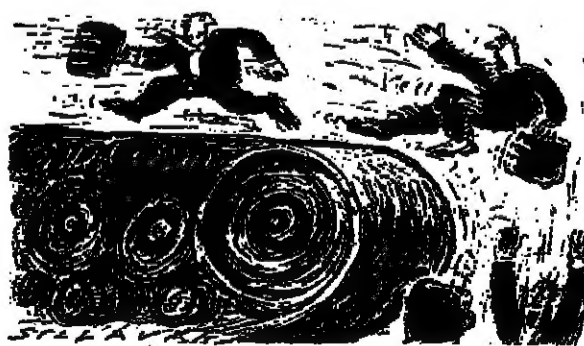
## Survey shows death of a sales force

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

IT WILL come as no surprise to Willy Loman, but salesmen — and women — have been hardest hit by recession. According to government figures that break down the jobless statistics into sectors, beauticians, police officers, and managers have increased, while sales people have been worst affected. Not so much death of a salesman as death of a sales force.

Sales, clerical and machine-operating staff all fared badly. The number employed in selling fell 35,000 over the quarter, or 1.8 per cent, while clerical staff and machine operators fell 6,000 and 24,000 respectively.

The figures support the idea that this downturn is more of a white-collar recession, but suggest that how the recession has hit white-collar workers has differed



between sectors. The government's Labour Force Survey, which breaks down unemployment statistics into occupational and industrial groups, is published every three months. The survey used to be issued annually, but its second quarterly publication last week allows, for the first time, an examination of who is faring best.

Best placed are those working in what the department of employment cate-

gorises as "personal and protective services", which includes occupations such as the police and fire services, as well as beauticians and hairdressers. Employment in this group rose 65,000, or 2.7 per cent, between spring and summer this year.

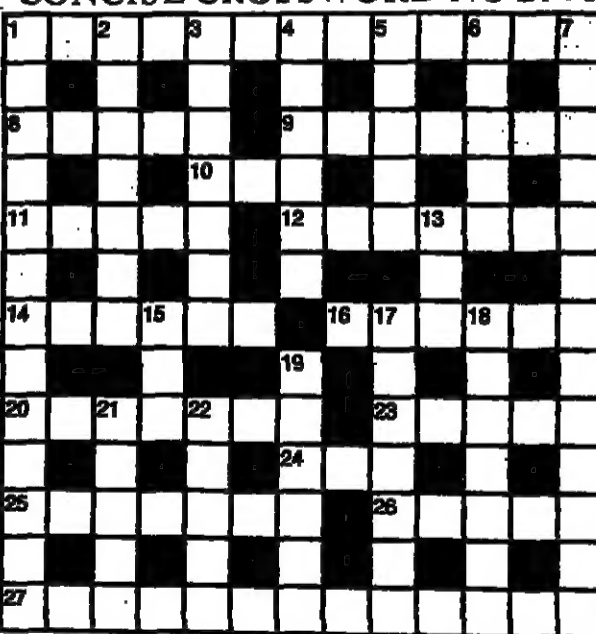
Managers were not far behind. The number of managers and administrators increased by 42,000 (1.1 per cent), while associate professional and technical staff —

technicians, nurses, computer programmers — went up by 34,000, or 1.6 per cent. Over the previous year, the number of managers rose 75,000, or 2 per cent, while those in personal and other services rose the same amount, 3.3 per cent.

By broad industrial group, farming is, by far, the safest area for employment. While employment in agriculture and energy over the 12 months to April fell about 10 per cent, over the period measured by the two LFS reports, the number employed in farming rose 19,000, or 3.8 per cent.

Second to agriculture was banking, finance and insurance, with a 1.1 per cent increase, or an extra 66,000 people. The LFS figures include second jobs. While the number of people with second jobs is, at 900,000, marginally down, the level is higher than the 700,000 recorded in the mid-1980s.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2976



### ACROSS

- 1 From UK to US (13)
- 8 Tralee county (5)
- 9 Plane wing flap (7)
- 10 Louse egg (3)
- 11 Fine net fabric (5)
- 12 Brassica (7)
- 14 Surplus (6)
- 16 Beverage vessel (3,3)
- 20 Inactivity (7)
- 23 Marijuana (5)
- 24 Contend (3)
- 25 Indecent (7)
- 26 Raw fish dish (5)
- 27 Take position (4,4,5)

### DOWN

- 1 Uncover (4,3,3,3)
- 2 Blanket fibre (7)
- 3 Stealth (7)
- 4 Roof straw (6)
- 5 Impromptu (2,3)
- 6 Land (5)
- 7 Thoughtful (1,3)
- 13 Sheep noise (3)
- 15 Wheat tip (3)
- 17 Creeps close (5,2)
- 18 Two pack card game (7)
- 19 Caution (6)
- 21 Artist's stand (5)
- 22 Rome coins fountain (5)

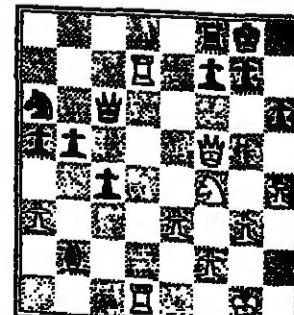
### SOLUTIONS TO NO 2975

- ACROSS: 1 Quisting 5 Plus 9 Analyst 10 Spoor 11 Eyot 12 Version 14 Patten 16 Spigot 19 Non stop 21 Clan 24 Rigid 25 Rainbow 26 Late 27 Slag heap
- DOWN: 1 Quad 2 Italy 3 Layette 4 Native 6 Looting 7 Strength 8 Tsar 13 Spandrel 15 Tonight 17 Picking 18 Spiral 20 Tide 22 Ambie 23 Swap

**CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS:** For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software with help levels, (runs on most PCs), call Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hrs) or CDS on 0202 890000 - STOP PRESS! just released - the First Book of The Times Jumbo Concise Crosswords - ring Akom. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

### WINNING MOVE

This position is taken from the game Larsen - Large, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1986/87. Grandmaster Bent Larsen made a successful appearance in this tournament, finishing equal first. How did he break through black's defences here and made a vital capture? British grandmasters Nunn and Speelman will be among the eight players in the top section at this year's Hastings tournament. Further details from the British Chess Federation on 0424 442500 (Raymond Keene). Solution on page 29.



### WORD WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

**BLANQUETTE**  
a. White poster paint  
b. A French army cape  
c. Veal in sauce

**FILARIA**  
a. Ribbons round the forehead  
b. A worm  
c. A Spartan mess or club

### DOOMIE

- a. A Cassandra
  - b. A breed of African dog
  - c. A housemaid
- CLAYTONIA**  
a. A small herb  
b. A type of jazz  
c. An earthenware glaze

Answers on page 29

XERYUS  
DE GIVENCHY

Fascinating  
and Original

XERYUS

GIVENCHY